DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Don't entertain lobbying, high command tells DKS

Hectic jockeying on for 20 Cabinet berths

Page 5

World

Nirav Modi must pay Bank of India $11 mn P.12

Nation

Dipke appears before MeitY panel on X account blocking P.7

State

Devanahalli farmers may get Rs 2.7 cr an acre P.5

Nation

B'luru BRICS meet discusses Space Council P.7

Adani's tunnel road bid is 96% above original benchmark

Govt: Premium reduces to 35-40% against revised costs

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

An artist's impression of the tunnel shaft.

TUNNEL TENDER

Original TCV estimates	₹5,484.32 cr Package 1	₹6,539.40 cr Package 2
	TOTAL: ₹ 12,023 cr	
Adani's negotiated bid	₹10,737 cr Package 1	₹11,263.5 cr Package 2
	TOTAL: ₹ 22,000.5 cr	

(TCV: TOTAL CONCESSION VALUE)

Contrary to the perception that Adani Enterprises quoted about 25% more than the revised estimates for Bengaluru's proposed tunnel road, internal documents reviewed by *DH* show that the negotiated bid is up to 95.77% higher than the original benchmark prepared for the project.

A higher concession value means that citizens will have to pay a toll for a longer period of time, which can run for up to 40 years. During this concession period, the company also gets to recover the investments through commercial development across five locations which are also prime land parcels.

The government, however, argues that the overall premium reduces to about 35-40% when assessed against updated project costs and prevailing market rates.

Notably, the final call on whether to approve the bids will now be taken by the D K Shivakumar-led Cabinet, where the proposal is expected to be placed anytime soon.

Shivakumar had conceptualised the 16.75-km North-South tunnel corridor (Hebbal to Central Silk Board) during his three-year tenure as Bengaluru Development Minister before becoming chief minister.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 17,780 crore, is being taken up in two packages under the modified Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model.

Under this concession framework, the government will provide 40% of the total cost as viability gap funding (VGF) while the private concessionaire will bear the remaining amount in addition to building the tunnel road.

When the bids were opened last December, Adani Enterprises emerged as the lowest bidder for both packages, quoting a total concession value (TCV) of Rs 10,867.50 crore for Package-1 and Rs 11,400.40 crore for Package-2.

These bids were 98.16% and 74.33% higher, respectively, than the original TCV estimates prepared for the project.

Following negotiations, Adani Enterprises agreed to reduce its quoted TCV for Package-1 to Rs 10,737 crore. For Package-2, the company reduced its quote to Rs 11,263.50 crore.

The combined reduction works out to Rs 267.40 crore.

While Rs 17,780 crore is the project cost, the total concession value (TCV) of Rs 22,000 crore includes construction cost, financing cost, risk premium, return on investment including potential toll revenue among others.

Commenting on the higher bids, officials argued that the financial commitment that rests on the government remains unchanged.

▸ Tunnel road, Page 5

Cement units choke, pollute Kalaburagi villages

Dust poses health hazards, ruins crops; river contaminated

DH SPECIAL

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

A farmer shows dried chilli and marigold crop.

Toxic units

- Four cement factories are located within an 8-10 km radius in Sedam and Chittapur taluks
- Four factories are situated within a 50-60 km radius in Kalaburagi and Chincholi taluks, including within Wadi town limits
- Kalaburagi houses 18 manufacturing units belonging to 8 companies

With its rich limestone deposits, Kalaburagi district is a major cement manufacturing hub and accounts for nearly 30% of Karnataka's cement production.

But this distinction means little to villages across Sedam, Chittapur and Chincholi taluks which house 18 major manufacturing units belonging to eight companies, including UltraTech Cement, ACC Ltd, Orient Cement and Shree Cement.

Residents of more than 20 surrounding villages complain of severe dust pollution, respiratory illnesses, skin diseases and cracks in houses caused by limestone blasting.

Residents of Malkhed Station tanda, a hamlet in Sedam taluk, say they sweep their homes and clean windows, walls and ceilings at least four to five times a day to remove dust billowing from the nearby cement factory.

At least one member of nearly every household in the village works as a daily wager at the factory, often at the cost of their health.

Other villages around the cement factories are suffering a similar plight.

Villagers say that Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has not initiated any action against the units except serving show-cause notices to the factories.

Based on complaints filed by a local environmental activist, 30 show-cause notices were issued to cement plants between 2024 and 2026 over non-compliance, with several units receiving multiple notices.

▸ Cement units, Page 6

Israel deliberately killed 20k Gaza kids: UN panel

UNITED NATIONS, PTI

Palestinian children wait for food at a distribution point in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip. AFP FILE

More than 20,000 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces in "deliberate, targeted" attacks since October 2023, according to a UN commission of inquiry chaired by Srinivasan Muralidhar.

Muralidhar, the former Orissa High Court Chief Justice, said in a press conference in Geneva on Tuesday that they found "indisputable evidence" concerning the "deliberate, targeted killing of Palestinian children, including since the October 2025 ceasefire".

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in its 100-page report that between October 7, 2023, and October 7, 2025, at least 20,179 children were killed and 44,143 children were injured as a result of the hostilities in Gaza, constituting 30% of those killed and 26% of those injured during this period.

Muralidhar said that the commission's findings are that "Israel targets children to weaken demographic vitality and deny the Palestinian people's right to self-determination".

▸ Gaza, Page 6

Kolkata: 5 killed in warehouse collapse

KOLKATA, PTI: Five workers perished and around 20 others were rescued and hospitalised after a three-storey under-construction warehouse collapsed in Kolkata's Taratala area on Wednesday, prompting Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari to order a halt to all construction projects approved under the erstwhile TMC regime within the city's civic body area till July 31.

About 15 more workers still remained trapped under the massive debris of concrete and steel more than nine hours after the disaster struck officials said, sparking apprehensions of a further rise in death toll, even as rescue efforts were underway in full swing.

Three people, a construction site supervisor and two labour suppliers, were arrested.

K'taka decides to implement Centre's new rural jobs scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress-governed Karnataka announced Wednesday that it will implement the Union government's new rural job guarantee scheme — Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) — in the state from July 1 even as it prepares to challenge the legal provisions of the scheme before the Supreme Court.

While agreeing to implement the new law "in the interest of rural people", Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Eshwar Khandre said the state will continue to fight the Union government over funding and other contentious provisions.

"While the VB-G RAM G Act will impose a greater burden on the state government, it will nevertheless be implemented from July 1 in the interest of rural people, women, the deprived and the vulnerable," Khandre told a news conference, adding that the chief minister has agreed to rollout the new scheme.

> While the VB-G RAM G Act will impose a greater burden on the state government, it will nevertheless be implemented from July 1 in the interest of rural people, women, the deprived and the vulnerable.
>
> **ESHWAR KHANDRE,** RDPR Minister

The previous Siddaramaiah government had decided to move the Supreme Court against the new law, which replaced the Congress-era Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

▸ Rural jobs, Page 6

USTR wraps up India visit, no clarity yet on interim deal

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer wrapped up his three-day India visit on Wednesday after holding multiple rounds of discussions with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and other top officials on the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

While both sides have claimed substantial progress on talks, there is no clarity yet on signing of an interim deal.

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry noted in a statement that Greer's visit "marked a key step in ongoing efforts to advance a balanced, mutually beneficial India–US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and to finalise an interim deal in line with the joint statement of February 7, 2026".

An official statement said Goyal and Greer conducted a comprehensive review of core BTA elements.

▸ Trade deal, Page 6

'Very, very close' to deal: US official

The US and India are "very, very close" to a deal that will open the Indian market to American goods on reciprocal terms, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bethany Poulos Morrison said.

MUMBAI MONSOON

Vehicles drive on a waterlogged road after heavy rain inundated several parts of Mumbai on Wednesday. Parts of the city received 200 to 300 mm rainfall in a span of 24 hours. PTI

Iran invites PM to Khamenei's funeral

NEW DELHI, PTI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is learnt to have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the burial ceremonies for the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday.

The funeral ceremonies will be held from July 5 to 9.

There is no confirmation from New Delhi on the invitation to PM Modi.

Khamenei was killed on February 28, the first day of massive US and Israeli air strikes on Tehran.

The funeral is slated to be held in Tehran and Qom on July 5, 6, and 7.

The final ceremony will take place in the city of Mashhad on July 9.

Tech helps cops nab Bengaluru triple murder accused from Puducherry

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 25-year-old woman accused of stabbing her parents and younger sister to death with the help of her live-in partner in Bengaluru was arrested in Puducherry, police said.

Shwetha, the accused, was picked up near a railway station by a special team. Her partner, Kenneth, is still absconding.

The police relied on CCTV footage, field intelligence, and toll plaza footage to trace the suspects' movements.

After committing the crime, the couple fled on a bike. The motorcycle ride spanning nearly 300 km from Bellandur to Puducherry came to an abrupt end when the vehicle broke down near a railway station in Puducherry.

According to police, the accused fled Bengaluru immediately after the triple murder and travelled towards Tamil Nadu on a motorcycle.

▸ Murder, Page 6

'Life was caged at home', P3

Quickly

Five drown in Cauvery river at Muthathi

Five people were washed away in the River Cauvery near Muthathi at Halagur in Malavalli taluk on Wednesday evening. The deceased were identified as Shwetha, of J Byadarahalli, Bengaluru South district, her daughter Priyanka, Shwetha's sister-in-law Vijayalakshmi, her daughter Chaitra, and car driver Mahesh of Bengaluru.

Khata conversion: Govt plans ordinance

The state government is planning to promulgate an ordinance on converting 'B' khatas to 'A' khatas in rural areas, Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre said Wednesday. He said 97 lakh rural property owners have yet to receive khatas.

Details on Page 5

Money laundering: ED raids brother-in-law of Satish Jarkiholi

The ED on Wednesday launched simultaneous raids against a senior excise officer and the brother-in-law of minister Satish Jarkiholi. The raids were executed against Y Manjunath, Additional Excise Commissioner, Enforcement and Crime, Belagavi, and his alleged associates. The searches were a result of suspected foreign transactions, alleged money laundering attempts and amassing properties under benami names.

Details on Page 5

Man killed on Mumbai local train during fight

A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a co-passenger on a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid the rains, in the second such incident this year, officials said.

Great Nicobar project: PAC chairman K C Venugopal seeks report

PAC Chairman K C Venugopal on Wednesday asked Home Secretary Govind Mohan to submit a brief report on the impact of the contentious Great Nicobar Project.

Details on Page 7

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Falling ovarian reserve raises infertility fears

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

FERTILITY FIGURES

- Ovarian reserve indicates total healthy eggs in a woman's ovaries
- It is found out by Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) test
- AMH level of 2.5 ng/ml and above is considered normal in women below 30 years
- AMH is produced in ovaries

AMH level corresponds to number of eggs in the ovarian reserve

Lower AMH means fewer eggs, lower ovarian reserve

Doctors across Bengaluru are observing a worrisome trend: the ovarian reserve of young women is declining significantly.

Ovarian reserve is the total number of healthy eggs remaining in a woman's ovaries and is one of the most important indicators of reproductive potential.

After *DH* spoke to eight private hospitals and fertility clinics and as deduced from *DH*'s survey, on an average, close to 30% of women aged between 28 and 35 who were undergoing fertility evaluation at these hospitals and clinics in Bengaluru had Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) levels below 2 ng/ml, indicating a reduced ovarian reserve.

The figure was as high as 50% at a few establishments. Around 20% of women in the same age group also had AMH levels below 1 ng/ml.

For those below 30 years, an AMH level of 2.5 ng/ml and above is considered normal.

In women, AMH is produced in the ovaries and its level corresponds to the number of eggs in the ovarian reserve. Lower AMH levels mean fewer eggs and a lower ovarian reserve.

While government facilities do not offer AMH tests since they don't offer IVF treatment, doctors there said they have also been hearing of such cases and this could be because of poor lifestyle choices.

"We have heard about such cases and it is worrisome. However, we cannot attribute it to one single cause, it's a combination of lifestyle factors," Dr C Savitha, Medical Superintendent of government-run Vani Vilas Hospital, Bengaluru, told *DH*.

▸ Ovarian reserve, Page 5

WELLNESS ECOSYSTEM

Home to meditation centres, temples, mental healthcare institutions and holistic wellness campuses, the southern stretch has emerged as a unique urban ecosystem shaped by affordable land, tranquil surroundings and improved connectivity

Kanakapura Road evolves into city's corridor of spirituality, wellness and holistic healing

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Once a quiet highway on Bengaluru's southern outskirts, Kanakapura Road has steadily evolved into one of the city's most distinctive urban corridors — bringing together spirituality, wellness, mental healthcare, and holistic living.

Over the past two decades, the stretch has attracted a range of institutions, including the Art of Living Foundation International Centre, Pyramid Valley International, Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill, and Cadabam's Hospitals. Together, they draw thousands of visitors, devotees and wellness seekers every week.

Local residents say the transformation was driven less by planning and more by practical considerations.

"Several decades ago, large parcels of land were available along Kanakapura Road at comparatively affordable prices, enabling organisations to establish expansive campuses capable of accommodating thousands of visitors," said Shivakumar S, a local resident.

Among the earliest major institutions to establish a presence was the Art of Living Foundation. Its sprawling campus has since become a major centre for meditation, spiritual learning and wellness programmes, reportedly attracting an average daily footfall of around 20,000.

Its success encouraged other organisations to set up bases along the stretch.

The Yogoda Satsanga Society of India, founded on the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda, operates its Kanakapura Upa Dhyana Kendra in the area, hosting regular meditation sessions, devotional gatherings and spiritual discourses for practitioners across Bengaluru.

Further along the corridor lies Pyramid Valley International, a 40-acre campus that houses the Maitreya Buddha Pyramid — one of the world's largest pyramid-shaped structures dedicated to meditation. Built using geometric principles inspired by the Great Pyramid of Giza, the 102-foot structure can accommodate nearly 5,000 meditators at a time.

Institution officials said the centre receives around 500–600 visitors on weekdays, rising to 1,500–2,000 on weekends, most of them from Bengaluru. In recent years, it has expanded its offerings to include sound and vibrational healing programmes alongside traditional meditation practices.

"Sound healing is more passive compared to traditional meditation. Participants simply relax and experience therapeutic vibrations that help induce a meditative state," an official said.

LOOKING —SOUTH— KANAKAPURA ROAD

(Above) Kanakapura Road's Art of Living International Centre, one of Bengaluru's key wellness hubs. (R) Pyramid Valley International, a centre for meditation and holistic healing.
DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Beyond spirituality, Kanakapura Road has also emerged as a destination for mental healthcare and rehabilitation. Institutions such as Cadabam's have established specialised facilities in the region, citing the area's calm environment and green surroundings as conducive to recovery and long-term treatment.

Metro boost

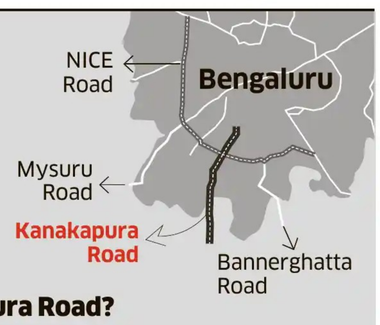
While affordable land laid the foundation for this ecosystem, improved connectivity has significantly accelerated its growth in recent years. The extension of Namma Metro's Green Line has made the corridor more accessible, reducing travel time and improving connectivity to previously distant locations.

One of the key beneficiaries has been ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill in Vasanthapura. The temple complex, which houses the Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple built in traditional stone architecture inspired by the Tirumala Tirupati Temple, now draws steady footfall due to its proximity to the Doddakallasandra metro station.

With Chief Minister and Kanakapura MLA DK Shivakumar representing the larger region, residents expect continued investments in civic infrastructure, roads and connectivity projects in the coming years.

SOUTHERN SANCTUARY

In this story, *DH* tracks how Kanakapura Road has become a hub for mental healthcare and rehabilitation.



Why Kanakapura Road?

Large land parcels were available at relatively low prices, enabling organisations to develop expansive campuses capable of accommodating thousands of visitors.

Spiritual centres

- **Art of Living Foundation International Center:** The sprawling campus receives around 20,000 visitors daily and serves as a major destination for meditation, spiritual learning, and wellness programmes.
- **Pyramid Valley International:** The 40-acre campus houses the Maitreya Buddha Pyramid, considered the world's largest pyramid structure dedicated to meditation. The 102-foot structure can accommodate nearly 5,000 meditators at a time.
- **Yogoda Satsanga Society of India:** Founded on the teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda, it operates the Kanakapura Upa Dhyana Kendra, which hosts regular meditation sessions, devotional gatherings and spiritual discourses.
- **ISKCON Vaikuntha Hill:** Located in Vasanthapura, the complex houses the Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple, built in traditional stone architecture inspired by the Tirumala Tirupati Temple.
- **Cadabam's Hospitals:** The mental healthcare and rehabilitation centre chose the location for its relatively tranquil environment and green surroundings, which are considered conducive to recovery and treatment.

> "South Bengaluru lacked a major spiritual centre and devotees felt the need for a place of worship closer to home. At the same time, we were conscious that thousands of people in the city sleep hungry every night. We wanted to address both the spiritual void and the hunger crisis. – **ISKCON representative**

Sound and vibrational healing

Meditation centres are increasingly introducing sound healing practices, where participants relax and experience therapeutic vibrations designed to induce a meditative state and promote mental well-being.

B'luru to launch 'Safe Footpath Campaign' on July 1

KBG makes announcement at GBA review meeting

BENGALURU, DHNS

Greater Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday announced a citywide 'Safe Footpath Campaign', starting July 1 to clear encroachments and improve pedestrian safety across Bengaluru.

Krishna Byre Gowda

Shop owners and commercial establishments have been asked to voluntarily remove all encroachments from footpaths by the deadline.

After July 1, civic authorities will begin strict enforcement, including penalties for violations.

Following a review meeting with Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, the minister said the right to safe walking space has been upheld by the Supreme Court and must be ensured by urban local bodies.

The initial phase of the campaign will cover around 2,000 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads out of Bengaluru's nearly 13,000-km road network, focusing on clearing obstacles that block pedestrian movement.

Gowda said many footpaths are currently occupied by shop displays, signboards and other materials, forcing pedestrians onto roads. He urged traders to keep business activities within private premises.

Citing accident data, he noted that Bengaluru records about 1,000 road deaths annually, with pedestrians accounting for nearly 30%.

Authorities will also tow vehicles parked illegally on footpaths, in line with Supreme Court directions. Abandoned vehicles will be stickered from July 1, given seven days for removal, and towed from July 10 if unattended, followed by auction as per rules.

The government has allocated Rs 70 crore to repair damaged and uneven footpaths across 2,000 km of roads in the city.

From July 1, pushcart vendors and hawkers will not be allowed to operate on footpaths along major corridors, and violations will attract seizure and penalties.

ACTION PLAN

- Shop owners must clear all footpath encroachments before July 1.
- Civic authorities will impose penalties for violations.
- First phase targets 2,000 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads.
- No vending on footpaths along major corridors; carts will be seized and penalties imposed.
- Vehicles parked on footpaths will be towed without exception.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.4°C
Minimum	21.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	59%
Sunset (June 25)	6:49 pm
Sunrise (June 26)	5:55 am
Moonrise	2:14 pm
Moonset	1:24 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

East Corpn asks KIADB to expedite land transfer for road widening

BENGALURU, DHNS

DS Ramesh, Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), on Wednesday met KIADB officials to discuss land transfer for road widening and civic amenity sites.

He also urged Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) officials to speed up the process and ensure timely completion of projects.

"The commissioner directed officials to expedite the process of transferring lands reserved for road widening, parks, and open spaces through Relinquishment Deeds," a BECC statement said. The directive covers cases where building plan approvals have been granted to properties on both sides of these roads.

Ramesh said the number of vehicles within the BECC limits is continuously increasing, making road widening, underpass construction and alternative road networks essential for smooth traffic flow on major roads.

"He emphasised that the timely transfer of lands reserved for road development would enable the completion of projects within the prescribed timelines," the BECC statement said, adding that this would significantly improve traffic management and public convenience, a key corporation priority.

Ramesh also directed officials from the KIADB, Revenue Department, Town Planning Division, TDR Division and other BECC departments to work in close coordination to resolve all pending cases at the earliest.

AWAITING LAND ACQUISITION

- ITPL Main Road (from Outer Ring Road to Hope Farm Junction)
- Whitefield Main Road (from Varthur Kodi to Hope Farm Junction)
- New Horizon School Road (from Outer Ring Road to Gear School Road)
- Goshala Road (from Outer Ring Road via Bagmane Tech Park–SAP Road No 07 to Sathya Sai Hospital)
- Dinnur Main Road (from ITPL Main Road to the Railway Track/ Railway Crossing)

State to launch 'Namma Guide'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Tourism is developing a new online platform, "Namma Guide", to enhance tourism services in the state.

The website and app will help tourists easily connect with local guides, similar to systems used in other countries, enabling smoother booking and better on-ground assistance at tourist destinations.

Officials said that local guides play a key role in explaining the history, culture, and significance of tourist spots, and the platform aims to make their services more accessible to both domestic and international visitors.

The initiative is also expected to involve guides in improving cleanliness and better management of tourist locations across the state.

Dignitaries at the conference at Silicon City College.

Conference on enduring legacy of GS Shivarudrappa

BENGALURU, DHNS: Silicon City College, KR Puram, organised a national conference on the life and works of Kannada litterateur GS Shivarudrappa on June 18.

Held as part of the writer's birth centenary celebrations, the conference brought together academicians, researchers and Kannada teachers from across the country to reflect on Shivarudrappa's literary contributions and intellectual legacy.

A total of 25 research papers examining various dimensions of Shivarudrappa's life, writings and literary philosophy were presented during the conference.

Prof BK Ravi, Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru North University, urged younger generations to engage more deeply with literature, noting that reading literary works enriches both personal and professional life.

Prof HC Boralingaiah, former Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi, highlighted the philosophical depth and humanistic vision reflected in Shivarudrappa's poetry and prose, describing his writings as a bridge between tradition and modernity.

Among those present were Dr HM Chandrashekar, Chairman of Silicon City College; Prof G Venkatesh, former Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka Sanskrit University; HM Mukunda, Director of Silicon City College; Dhanya Tejas, CEO; and Bhanu Pradyumna, COO.

ISRO's LPSC to hold pension adalat in city on Monday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), a unit of ISRO under the Department of Space, will conduct a pension adalat on Monday in Bengaluru to address grievances of pensioners and family pensioners.

The event will be held at 2 pm at the LPSC Bengaluru campus.

Pensioners and family pensioners with unresolved issues can submit their grievances to the Senior Administrative Officer, LPSC Bengaluru, either by post or via email at sado@lpscb.gov.in, according to the press release.

MERGER OF BRANCH

Nrupthunga Road HDFC Bank Branch is merging to the following addess from 15th July 2026.

Old Address	New Address
HDFC Bank Ltd. at No.03/01, Ward No.77, Gr Flr, Nrupthunga Road, Bangalore-560001.	HDFC Bank Ltd. KHB Building East Wing, KG Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560009

Monday to Saturday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Second, Fourth Saturday & Every Sunday Closed

HDFC BANK

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. M-TSK-2026-19

Corrigendum no. 1 against Tender Notice No. M-TSK-2026-19, Date: 05-06-2026 has been uploaded. The tender submission and opening date now to be read as under:

1. Last date and time for submission of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 20-07-2026.
2. Date and time of opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 20-07-2026.

For details corrigendum kindly visit N.F. Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

Sr. DME/Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender notice No.: EL-G-RNC-OT-CUMMINS13R-26, Dated: 23.06.2026. Sr.DEE(G)/RNC, South Eastern Railway, Ranchi for & on behalf of President of India, invites e-Tender against Tender notice no.: EL-G-RNC-OT-CUMMINS13R-26, Dated: 23.06.2026 is scheduled to open on 15.07.2026 at 16.00 hrs. or later. **Brief Description/Name of the work**: Maintenance, Operation, Schedules & Troubleshooting of 500 kVA DA sets of M/s Cummins make CPCB-I, II & IV along with escorting of power car and LSLRD including HOG activities for a period of two (02) years. **Tender Cost:** ₹ 8,17,65,854.40. **EMD/Bid security:** ₹ 16,35,300. **Tender closing date & time**: 16.00 hrs. on 15.07.2026. **Website particular**: **https://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender detail can be viewed at the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderers/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderers/bidders can participate on e-tender. All relevant papers must be uploaded by tenderers with tender document at the time of participating in e-tendering. (PR-380)

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(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament)
PG ADMISSIONS 2026-27
Through CUET (PG) 2026
Applications are invited from candidates who have appeared in CUET (PG) 2026 for admission to Postgraduate Programmes.
LAST DATE TO APPLY 30th JUNE 2026 TUESDAY
PROGRAMMES OFFERED: M.Sc. | M.A. | M.Com. | MBA | MBA (Food & Agribusiness) | Integrated MLIS
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FOR DETAILS: www.mgcub.ac.in
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Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
Saint Claire's Prayer
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified & loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen, Ask St.Claire for three favours too impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for nine days, with a lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not publish on the ninth day. You request will be granted no matter how impossible it is.
- J. Vijaya

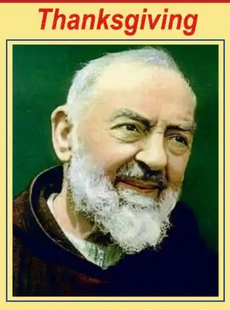
Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving to St.John Paul II for the favors received.
- L. GERARD PRASHANTH

Thanksgiving
Holy Spirit, Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal, you who give me the divine gift forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you, no matter how great the material desire may be, I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory.
- Amen, Devotee

INTENTIONS

For good health of Sudeep and special intention of Shreya.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving to St.Padre Pio for the favors received.
- L. GERARD PRASHANTH

THANKSGIVING
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For more Details Contact:
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9845114560 | 9731810277

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public / whomsoever it may concern that my Client intends/proposes to purchase the Schedule Property (as mentioned herein below) from its Owner **Propshare Commercial Parks Private Limited**, having its registered office at : E 715, 7th Main, Raheja Residency, Koramangala, 3rd Block, Bangalore - 560 034. The Owner has represented to our Client that it is the absolute owner having clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property.

Public is notified that any person/s having any form of right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever therein are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents **within 10 (Ten) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no persons other than the Owner named hereinabove has any right, title, interest, charge or claim with regard to the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived and it will be presumed that no valid claims or any objections subsist. Thereafter, my Client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the Owner referred above.

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'I was caged at home': Woman accused of triple murder

Tells cops her mother's controlling behaviour caused distress, forced her to commit the crime

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Within 24 hours after a triple murder rocked KR Puram, police have arrested the 25-year-old woman who killed her parents and her younger sister.

Officials revealed startling details about the murder as Shwetha, arrested in Puducherry, told investigators she had no freedom at home.

Shwetha

The victims were identified as Somasundar (52), a software engineer, his wife Muthulakshmi (48), and their younger daughter Supriya (19), who was pursuing her degree. The family, originally from Tamil Nadu, had been residing in Whitefield for several years.

"She blamed her mother's controlling behaviour for the family rift and cited it as the motive behind the crime," a senior police officer told *DH*.

Police traced Shwetha to a bus stop in Puducherry and arrested her.

Her 26-year-old live-in partner, Kenneth, an accomplice in the murder, is still absconding. He reached a friend's room in HAL after the murder and later fled on his bike. Special teams are pursuing him.

During interrogation, Shwetha told investigators she felt constantly monitored and controlled by her parents, particularly her mother, and that her movements and personal choices were frequently questioned. She said they strongly opposed her live-in relationship with Kenneth. This, she claimed, drove her to mental distress.

"My life was caged inside the house," she allegedly told police, adding she could no longer tolerate the restrictions.

Shwetha also said the strained relationship had led her to distance herself from her parents and resulted in frequent confrontations. She made no mention of financial debt or claims to property, police sources said.

Police recovered a diary from Shwetha's flat with entries on loneliness, emotional distress and isolation. Investigators are examining these as part of the probe.

Shwetha told the police she attacked Muthulakshmi first in the bathroom. When Supriya rushed to help, she, too, was stabbed in the hall. Somasundar managed to escape with knife injuries and called for help before being declared brought dead at a private hospital. Both accused fled from the terrace.

Investigators believe the killings were premeditated and carried out with Kenneth's active participation.

Police also found that both Shwetha and Kenneth are software engineers by qualification, but were not employed with any IT company at the time of the crime.

Kenneth's friends told police he led a lavish lifestyle, frequently hosted parties and spent generously on them. He did not appear to have ant financial difficulties, they said.

The postmortem of the three victims was conducted on Wednesday. The bodies were handed over to their relatives for the last rites.

Daughter, grandson arrested for killing elderly mother

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman aged 70 was allegedly beaten to death by her daughter and grandson after a drunken quarrel at their home in Kengeri.

The deceased has been identified as Jayamma, a native of Hassan, who had been staying with her daughter and grandson for two months. Bhagyalakshmi and her son Kushal have been arrested on charges of murder, police said.

A senior police officer said the family had a history of alcohol addiction.

On June 21, an argument broke out between Jayamma and Bhagyalakshmi over drinking at home and it escalated into a violent assault.

During the attack, Bhagyalakshmi and Kushal struck Jayamma with a wooden log, inflicting fatal head injuries. They hid the body inside the house. However, a few hours later, Kushal called a friend for help and claimed his grandmother had died of natural causes. When the friend arrived and saw the body, he grew suspicious and alerted the police.

The accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Public Consultation: On women's reservation bill and other topics; Organised by Naaveddu Nilladiddare Karnataka and National Coalition for women's reservation; Ashirvad, St Mark's Road; 10.30 am.

Art Exhibition: 'Broken foot journal and other stories'; To commemorate birth anniversary of Reba Hore; Organised by Seagull Kolkata; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam performance: By students of Shanthala Arts Academy; Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 6 pm.

Play: 'Sooji Mallige'; Directed by Sachetan Bhat; Kala Gangotri troupe to perform; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

How a snapped bolt triggered city's biggest metro disruption

Commuters stranded outside the MG Road metro station after train services were suspended towards Majestic on Tuesday evening. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Ridership fell by 60,000; BMRCL enquires into cause

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

> "The impact on passenger operations could have been severe had the snag taken place sooner. "The peak hour starts at 4 pm. So, two-and-a-half hours were already over. Otherwise, the impact on ridership would have been worse.
> — SENIOR OFFICIAL

Tuesday evening's technical snag that triggered the biggest disruption in Namma Metro's history was caused by the snapping of a mildsteel bolt that connects the insulator and support structure holding up the electrified third rail, officials in the know said.

The disruption shut eight stations, including the Majestic interchange, plunged the heart of the city into traffic chaos and reduced the metro ridership by about 60,000, from the weekday average of 10.3 lakh to 9.69 lakh.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has launched an inquiry to determine why the bolt snapped and take corrective measures to prevent recurrence.

Speaking to *DH*, BMRCL officials offered possible explanations of what went wrong and why.

Bengaluru's metro trains draw electrical power from the third rail, which operates at 750 V and is covered by a yellow fibreglass protective shroud.

The Current Collector Device (CCD), mounted under the train, makes sliding contact with the third rail to draw electrical power.

Bolts connect the insulator and support structure holding up the third rail. One bolt is installed every three metres.

One of these bolts appears to have broken, causing the assembly to droop out of alignment. Once the support sagged, the CCD or other components may have struck or improperly engaged parts of the third-rail bracket, similar to two wires touching after one sags. "A hidden crack in the bolt may have gone undetected. Inspecting every nut and bolt for microscopic defects is impractical. Such incidents are rare and not expected under normal circumstances," a BMRCL official stated.

The affected section was on a curve, which requires careful maintenance, as even a slight change in alignment can cause abnormal contact between the CCD and supporting hardware, leading to damage.

"This bolt failure was not expected. While ageing of components is possible, the system has not reached a stage where age alone would explain the failure, especially since maintenance is carried out regularly. We are examining whether the bolt failed due to ageing, a pre-existing crack or vibration over time," the official explained.

The official compared it to an old ligament injury that may surface suddenly under stress despite existing unnoticed for years.

The train was travelling from MG Road towards Cubbon Park. Around 6.30 pm, it passed through the tunnel and entered the station, but stopped before fully reaching the platform. One coach remained inside the tunnel, but passengers were evacuated by walking through the train to coaches aligned with the platform and exiting normally.

The enquiry will examine when the bolt failed, test the material, review maintenance records, determine when it was last replaced and question relevant personnel, the official said. Another senior official maintained that there was "absolutely no issue" with the train, which has a service life of 35 years. "This is the first time that such an issue has happened in the last 16 years," the official said.

Metro disruption highlights 'brazen' auto sector, gaps in bus ops

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The metro disruption on Tuesday shed light on the city's heavy dependence on autorickshaws, triggering commuter chaos and allegations of fare gouging.

The situation also highlighted concerns over inadequate regulation of auto operations, commuters said.

Due to the unexpected disruption, many commuters were stranded for hours without transport at major traffic hotspots such as MG Road, Indiranagar, Whitefield, and Baiyappanahalli.

Tarun Vijaykumar, a Malleswaram resident, said high auto fares forced him and his wife to walk 1–2 km from the Singayyanapalya metro station, hoping to find a less crowded area, but found similar congestion everywhere. "Yesterday was a testament to how unregulated the auto market is. The drivers have no fear; they were brazenly demanding high fares right in front of the police," he said.

Unverified videos circulating on social media also showed frustrated commuters hitching rides on lorries and trucks to reach home. Many commuters said their lack of awareness of BMTC services left them heavily dependent on ride-hailing apps.

"The BMTC carries more people every day (48 lakh trips) than any other city, but many commuters still find it difficult to catch a bus due to lack of awareness. Bus routes, schedules and live information are now available on the Namma BMTC app and website and are also displayed at many bus stops. For first-time bus users, I highly recommend joining the 'Friends of BMTC' community built by passionate bus lovers," said Srinivas Alavilli, a civic activist.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the traffic police's primary focus was maintaining traffic flow and ensuring commuter safety.

"The entire metro crowd poured onto the streets; it was chaotic. Our sole concern was commuter safety and traffic regulation. We wanted to ensure everyone had a safe ride. In such situations, police cannot regulate fares. As a quick solution, we also suggested that BMRCL work with BMTC to deploy buses to metro stations," he said.

GT Prabhakara Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC, said 22 bus services were operated from MG Road and Indiranagar metro stations towards Majestic and Shivajinagar, carrying an additional 4,000 passengers.

"We deployed Sarathi patrol vehicles to manage crowds and divert buses until 11 pm. Even KSRTC buses chipped in," he said.

He added that to streamline metro–bus coordination during such situations, an arrangement is being developed where metro station managers can directly contact local bus depot managers to facilitate passenger movement. "For example, if there is an issue at the Indiranagar metro station, buses can be deployed from Depot 6," he said.

DH DECCAN HERALD
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Almost every locality in Bengaluru has a street corner or vacant plot that has turned into an informal garbage dump. These black spots are not merely an eyesore; they are a threat to public health and the environment. Deccan Herald and Prajavani invite citizens to share details and photographs of such sites for publication in these columns, in order to help push for timely action from the authorities.

Uncleared garbage piles up along Siddapura Road on Wednesday, raising concerns over sanitation and waste management in the area. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Indiranagar deserves better. Piles of garbage bags lining the roadside not only spoil the neighborhood's appearance, but also pose health and environmental concerns. DH PHOTO

Despite repeated concerns, garbage remains uncleared on Medahalli Service Road in Basavanapura Ward, Bengaluru North City Corporation, creating unhygienic conditions and exposing stray animals to harmful waste. PHOTO BY KIRANKUMAR J

Garbage piled up along Old Madras Road on Wednesday, highlighting the city's ongoing waste management challenges. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Goods auto drivers launch protest against logistics company Porter

BENGALURU, DHNS

Goods auto drivers in Bengaluru have accused logistics platform Porter of onboarding passenger autos to carry out goods delivery.

Hundreds recently stopped work, gathering outside Porter's Adugodi office and blaming it for "illegal and unjust practices". Similar protests broke out across Karnataka that day.

"The Porter app has been fleecing drivers for years now. We have been at their mercy because we no longer get business offline as the public is completely dependent on online services," alleged Raju N, president, Nonda Chalakara Vedike, adding this has further hurt their livelihood.

"It has been a month since Porter began onboarding passenger autos, which is illegal. But the company is taking Rs 1,500 as an onboarding fee and partnering with these drivers," he added. "Now, when you go on the Porter app, the option of an auto is the cheapest three-wheeler available. The customers, unaware that using passenger autos for logistics services is illegal, are opting for the cheapest option available to them."

Hundreds of goods auto drivers went on strike recently. FILE PHOTO

Bookings for other three-wheelers and four-wheelers dropped drastically, claimed delivery agents.

Drivers also flagged commissions of 15% to 18% and ID blocking and suspension.

"We are forced to accept every single order that comes our way. Even if the pickup location is more than 5 km away, we have to take on the order. If we decline an order, our account is immediately suspended," said Inayath Pasha, a Porter driver of five years. "If we raise complaints or decline orders, they also reduce our ratings, which impacts our overall earnings. We also have no access to anyone at Porter to raise our concerns."

The Transport Department on June 24 launched a drive against passenger vehicles used for goods delivery.

"We routinely do look out for auto drivers who flout this rule. Despite knowing that it is illegal, many auto drivers still do it. After speaking to the drivers at the protest yesterday, we are specifically focusing on the issue starting today," Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement, South) MP Omkareshwari told *DH*. "We're yet to send a notice or speak to the officials at Porter. We will soon decide what action to take after an internal meeting."

Porter declined to comment.

CCB nabs rowdy sheeter

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested a rowdy sheeter evading court proceedings despite warrants and a proclamation.

Interrogation revealed 11 criminal cases have been registered against Shakeeb alias Syed Akeeb Pasha, 30, at police stations in Bengaluru and in other states.

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Darshan moves SC seeking clarification on one-year bail bar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Actor Darshan has approached the Supreme Court seeking clarification on its May 15 (2026) order that held he was not eligible for bail for one year in the Renukaswamy murder case.

In an application, the actor has urged the court to clarify that the order was not meant to impose an absolute embargo on competent courts or constitutional courts from considering any subsequent developments that may warrant relief, in line with established principles of law.

He requested the apex court to make it clear that he would be entitled to seek appropriate relief in the event of lack of meaningful progress in the trial, prolonged incarceration, examination of only formal witnesses, continued pendency of crucial prosecution evidence, medical exigencies, humanitarian grounds or any other supervening circumstances affecting his personal liberty.

The plea states that Darshan has been in continuous custody since August 2025, when the Supreme Court cancelled his bail. He has fully complied with all court directions and has not attempted to delay the proceedings or obstruct the trial in any manner.

On May 15, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi, while rejecting Darshan's bail plea, had directed the trial court to conduct the proceedings on a day-to-day basis, beginning with the examination of 60 important witnesses. The bench had observed that though the trial was progressing slowly, the actor was not entitled to bail for one year.

With 33 new crest gates, TB dam gets fresh lease of life

Spotlight on hydraulic expert N Kannaiah Naidu who averted a disaster

Hydraulic expert N Kannaiah Naidu inspecting works on crest gate replacement of Tungabhadra reservoir, the lifeline of several districts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The 73-year-old spillway gates and chain links were replaced following the recommendation by Naidu.
DH FILE PHOTO

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

On Thursday, the chief ministers of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil will jointly launch 33 newly installed crest gates in the Tungabhadra (TB) dam in Hosapete. The Rs 51-crore renovation project has replaced the 73-year-old spillway gates and chain links, extending the dam's structural life by 50 years.

For 80-year-old retired engineer and hydraulic expert N Kannaiah Naidu, the event marks the culmination of a mission that began with a crisis nearly two years ago.

On August 10, 2024, Naidu, a dam advisor based in Hyderabad, received a distress call after crest gate 19 was washed away when its chain link snapped. With the reservoir full and flood alarms sounding, panic spread among villages downstream. Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments worried about standing crops across nearly 14 lakh acres.

Timely intervention

Naidu rushed to the dam site and, along with a team of experts, spent five days designing, fabricating and installing an emergency stop-log gate to prevent the reservoir from draining out.

Naidu, who bagged the Rajyotsava Award that year, warned that all 33 crest gates had exceeded their lifespan and needed urgent replacement.

Born into a farming family in Dasarapalli village in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district, Naidu studied mechanical engineering at Sri Venkateswara College, Tirupati. After training in dam design under veteran engineer S T Iyengar, he joined Tungabhadra Steels in 1976 and retired in 2002.

During his career, he designed crest gates, sluice gates, power-generation gates and canal regulator gates, building close ties with farmers across the Tungabhadra basin. Having helped commission 170 dams and provided technical expertise to more than 500 dams (including Sardar Sarovar, Supa, Almatti, Narayanpur dams) across the country, Naidu believes India's future water security will depend as much on maintaining existing dams as on building new ones.

This year, acting on his recommendation, a Central Water Commission team endorsed the proposal to replace all 33 gates. Between February and June 2026, Naidu returned to the project and the ageing crest gates were replaced with newly designed non-panel gates.

For Naidu, the Tungabhadra episode highlights a larger concern. Despite disasters such as the 1979 Machchu dam failure in Gujarat, which claimed around 2,000 lives, India enacted the Dam Safety Act only in 2021. While inspections and surveillance have improved since then, he believes governments must do more.

"There must be separate allocations for dam safety. The Centre has realised the importance of dam management and is bringing in experts to assess risks and suggest corrective measures. But state governments must take it seriously and provide funds for gate replacement and overall maintenance," said Naidu.

'SDC to be temporarily halted for 2 days'

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said on Wednesday that the state date centre (SDC) - the focal point of the digital services of various departments of the state government — will not be functional for the next two days due to safety reform initiatives.

The minister explained that the web portals of different departments, citizen service arrangements, e-office arrangements, digital databases of different departments and so on were functioning through the data centre, adding that the functions could be temporarily halted.

"This initiative is being undertaken to strengthen the state's digital administration system and make it more secure. It aims to ensure that citizens are provided government facilities in a faster and safer way and without technical hassles."

Priyank noted that the exercise was being undertaken to ensure that cybersecurity, stability of services and so on are further reformed. "We will improve the basic technological facilities in the state to ensure that Karnataka has the best digital administrative set-up in the entire country."

24-hour critical infrastructure upgrade today

A press release by the E-governance Department noted that a 24-hour critical infrastructure upgrade of UPS & Battery system will be taken up from 9 pm on 25 June.

"So, most of the GoK applications linked to SDC will be down for 24 hours. Once the scheduled maintenance work is done, applications will be up and running," it added.

The e-office secretariat being used by the entire Karnataka government secretariat, the release said, adding that the e-office software will be upgraded on Saturday and Sunday, and the upgraded new version will be functional from Monday morning.

Terror suspect held in D'gere had plans to blast Ram Mandir in Ayodhya

Suhail had come to Harihar two weeks ago

DAVANAGERE, DHNS

A terror suspect who was arrested in Bannikodu village in Harihar taluk, Davanagere reportedly had plans to plant a bomb at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, according to investigation by the police.

Suhail, a native of Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, came to Harihar only two weeks ago. A thorough examination of his mobile phone by the police has revealed that he was plotting to perpetrate several acts of terrorism in various parts of the country.

Suhail's activities on WhatsApp, Instagram and other social media sites appear to hint at a man with an anti-national mindset. Phone number of a Pakistani national was found saved on his phone under the name 'Ranaji'.

Police have also confiscated audio files wherein he is heard discussing his plans for acts of terrorism.

Suhail, who was employed as a painter in a Harihar factory, was a member of 'Rana Bai' and 'Juttu' WhatsApp groups, which are reportedly used by those who carry out acts of terrorism. Police have also found photographs of Suhail wherein he is seen posing with weapons.

Suhail had reportedly made plans to indoctrinate youngsters, whom he then wanted to use for terrorist activities. Police are also quizzing ten others who came to Harihar with Suhail.

Superintendent of Police H T Shekhar said, "Vital details have come to light during the interrogation of the terror suspect. We have confirmed, using his mobile phone, that he was in contact with many people in Pakistan."

NEW ATTRACTION AT PILIKULA

A one-week-old male calf of a Hippopotamus has become a new attraction at Pilikula Biological Park on the outskirts of Mangaluru. The calf is seen with its mother, Kavitha. DH PHOTO/FAKRUDDIN H

July 6: Deadline for power supply applications under OC exemption scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has urged eligible consumers to apply for permanent electricity connections under the government's one-time exemption scheme for buildings without an Occupancy Certificate (OC) before July 6, 2026.

The state government, in its order dated June 22, 2026, granted a one-time relaxation allowing permanent electricity connections for residential buildings constructed without an OC on plots measuring up to 2,400 sqft, with a permissible variation of 20%.

Applicants have been directed to submit their requests within 15 days of the order.

According to Bescom, implementation of the scheme has already begun for properties that fall within the eligibility criteria. Consumers have been advised to approach their nearest Bescom sub-division office or apply through the utility's official website.

To ensure smooth processing, Bescom offices will remain open even on select public holidays, including June 26 (Muharram–last day), June 27 (fourth Saturday), June 28 (Sunday), and July 5 (Sunday).

Under the scheme, Bescom will automatically process pending applications for permanent connections from owners who completed construction by May 31 and have already applied for electricity supply. Such applicants need only provide their application number and date. A geo-tagged photograph of the building will be captured in the presence of both the applicant and the Bescom official concerned.

For buildings completed by May 31 that are currently operating on a temporary electricity connection, applicants are required to submit a geo-tagged photograph of the structure, taken in the presence of the applicant. This can be submitted either at the Bescom sub-division office or through the online portal.

In cases where residential buildings were completed by May 31, but have neither applied for a temporary nor permanent connection, owners must obtain a geo-tagged photograph in the presence of officials and submit it at the nearest Bescom sub-division office.

Bescom has reiterated that all eligible applicants must complete the process within the stipulated deadline.

Property tax hike proposed to fund Bengaluru's elevated corridors, DPR reveals

BENGALURU, DHNS

Property owners in Bengaluru may be required to contribute to the cost of the city's proposed elevated corridor network, with the Detailed Project Report (DPR) recommending a property tax-based mechanism to recover infrastructure expenses.

Officials believe the new infrastructure will enhance property values in affected areas by improving connectivity and reducing travel time, thereby, justifying a contribution from beneficiaries.

The DPR for the proposed Old Madras Road–Hosur Road elevated corridor, which passes through Indiranagar, states that toll collection was found to be impractical due to the project's discontinuous alignment. The corridor comprises short elevated stretches interspersed with ramps, at-grade sections, and existing flyovers.

It notes that setting up toll plazas in such a configuration would pose operational difficulties, inconvenience commuters and generate insufficient revenue to justify installation and maintenance costs.

As a result, the project is proposed to be implemented under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) model, with the government bearing construction costs and the corridor remaining toll-free for users.

To recover costs, however, the DPR proposes a dedicated levy through the existing property tax system.

Properties located within the corridor's influence zone—expected to benefit from improved connectivity and higher land values—could be subject to a modest additional tax.

The proposal is based on the principle of "value capture financing", where a portion of the increase in property value generated by public infrastructure is channelled back into funding the project.

According to the DPR, integrating the levy into the property tax system would ensure a stable and predictable revenue stream without directly charging road users.

The proposed Indiranagar flyover is part of 11 elevated corridor projects totalling 126 km approved for Bengaluru. The projects are expected to remain toll-free.

Consumer refuses to pay bill, sets Gescom office on fire

SIRWAR (RAICHUR DISTRICT), DHNS

An aggrieved consumer who refused to pay electricity bill arrears totalling Rs 11,000 set the Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) sub-division office in Mallata village in the district.

Shivappa Gadigi, a resident of Hallihosur, was upset after Gescom employee Richard, acting on the directions of his superior officers, cut the power supply to Shivappa's father Basanagouda Gadigi's home.

An enraged Shivappa then proceeded to the Mallata Gescom sub-office, where he reportedly attacked the employees. He then proceeded to douse the office in petrol, and then lit it on fire, said Gescom officers.

Documents and records stored at the office, along with cash and computers, were reduced to ash in the fire. Fortunately, nobody sustained any injuries in the fire.

Gescom officers have urged the police to take action against Shivappa for attacking the employees and destroying public property. A case has been registered at the Sirwar police station.

Conduct audit of steps taken to assist minor victims of sexual assault: High Court

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka high court has directed the Department of Women and Child Development to conduct an audit on whether minor victims of sexual assault are being provided immediate care, protection, counselling, rehabilitation, and access to statutory entitlements.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while permitting a minor girl, a sexual assault victim, to terminate her 29-week-old pregnancy.

In October 2025, the high court had passed a detailed order detailing the steps to be taken to assist minor victims of sexual offences. Observing prima facie failure of the institutional mechanism in the case at hand, Justice Govindaraj directed the department to undertake a state-wide compliance audit regarding the implementation of the earlier directions.

"The audit will examine whether mechanisms have been evolved in each district and the extent of compliance by the police department, child welfare committees, district child protection units, and other stakeholder departments. The audit report will be submitted to the high court and will include details of the number of cases in which the prescribed protocol has been followed. If any deficiencies are noticed, they have to be placed on record within four weeks," the court said.

In the case at hand, a 15-year-old girl, who was staying away from home for education, was subjected to repeated sexual assault. The court noted that the station house officer allegedly did not inform the district child protection unit, the child welfare committee, the Women and Child Development Department, or other authorities as required.

"Had the authorities acted with the promptitude expected of them, the issue of medical termination of pregnancy could have been examined at a substantially earlier stage of gestation and the minor and her family would have been spared considerable uncertainty, distress and hardships," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

Five drown in Cauvery at Muthathi

HALAGUR/MANDYA, DHNS: Five people were washed away in the River Cauvery near Muthathi at Halagur in Malavalli taluk on Wednesday evening.

Shwetha (38), of J Byadarahalli, Channapatna taluk, Bengaluru South district, her daughter Chaitra (19), Shwetha's sister-in-law Vijayalakshmi (52), her daughter Priyanka (28) and car driver Mahesh (38) of Bengaluru are the deceased.

Shwetha's husband Ravi and Priyanka's two-year-old child have escaped.

According to the police, Shwetha's family had rented a car from Bengaluru and had participated in the non-vegetarian feast (Beegara Oota) at their relatives' house in Kabbalu village, in Kanakapura taluk, on Wednesday. Later, they visited the Muthathi Anjaneyaswamy temple at 4 pm and offered puja.

Vijayalakshmi had gone to take a selfie in the river and was washed away. The other four, who went to her rescue, also drowned, the police said. All five bodies have been retrieved. Superintendent of Police V J Shobharani, Malavalli DySP Yashwanth Kumar visited the spot. Halagur police have registered a case.

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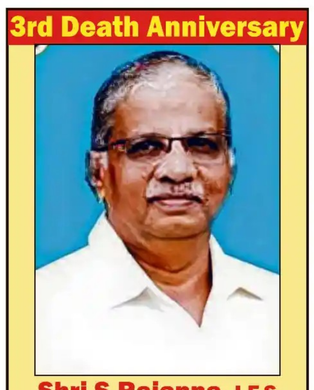

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(Retd. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest.)
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Fondly Remembered by
Gooly Nanjaiah's Family, Mamballi

DH Classifieds

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Priyanka Alias Priya Deshmukh, residing at A042, Sansidh Galaxy Apt, Railway Parallel Rd, Rachenahalli, BLR-560077, have changed my name and dropped my alias. Henceforth, I shall be known as **Priyanka Dhanraj Deshmukh** for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated 20-06-2026 sworn before Notary Public, Sridhar Rao, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AROCKIA SAMY MARIA SAMY, Ex - Sapper Service No. 1344836M,** residing # 2, 10th Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Hongasandra Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to **A MARIYA SWAMY** vide affidavit dated 20-06-2026 before notary XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru City.

I, MR. MOHAMMED SHAHID, have changed my father's name from GHOUS to MOHAMMED GHOUSE, vide affidavit dated 24/06/2026 before notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **FATHIMAMARY W/o A Mariya Swamy, (Army No. 1344836M)**, R/at # 2, 10th Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Hongasandra Bengaluru-68, In my huband's Army Record my name is wrongly entered as **PATHIMA MARY** my Correct Name **FATHIMAMARY** and my **Date of Birth is 20-06-1953** vide affidavit dated 20-06-2026 before notary XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru

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Residence : Gurukrupa Nilaya,No. 24, 1st Cross, KEB Office Road, Next to City Super Market, Kullappa Circle, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084.
Timings: 10 am to 1 pm & 3 pm to 8 pm

I,PALLAP PAVAN Kumar (old name). R/o.H.No. 12/21/4, Popular Colony, Ellukunte Hobli, Mangammanpalya, Bommanahalli post,Bengaluru-village,Begur-560068, Karnataka.has Changed my Name as Pallapu Pavan Kumar (new name).

Lost

DOCUMENT LOST
I, **SUNITHA** w/o Prakash N, residing at Bellahalli Majare Jalipalya Village,CS Pura Hobli, Gubbi Tq, Tumakuru, have lost my **Original Sale deed GBB No.1-04818-2019-20, CD No.GBBD480, dated 12-11-2019. (Varahasandra Village, Survey No. 71/9),** While in house cleaning. If found please contact: **9743783932**

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Cabinet expansion: Don't entertain lobbying, Cong tells Shivakumar

There'll be zero tolerance towards those lobbying for berths, DKS told

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress high command on Wednesday rang up Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and asked him "not to entertain lobbying of any kind" by lawmakers vying to join the Cabinet, sources said.

The party high command gave Shivakumar "several instructions" on lobbying by ministerial aspirants, sources in the chief minister's office (CMO) said.

"There will be zero tolerance towards those lobbying for ministerial berths," the party told Shivakumar, sources said. On June 3, Shivakumar took charge as chief minister. Thirteen others were inducted as ministers in his Cabinet. The 34-member Cabinet has 20 positions up for grabs and hectic lobbying is on.

Several senior lawmakers, who were ministers in the previous Siddaramaiah government, are hoping to join the Shivakumar administration. Plus, there are several fresh faces - lawmakers who have never been ministers - mounting pressure on Shivakumar.

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar takes part in a puja organised at the opening of his home office Krishna in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Of late, there have been protests by supporters of ministerial aspirants seeking berths for their leaders, lobbying by religious heads and seers and meetings by several camps.

This, the high command said, is "embarrassing the party."

Shivakumar was told that the high command was "seized of the matter" and decisions will be taken on expanding the Cabinet "at an appropriate time."

"Any kind of unwanted developments in this regard will be viewed seriously by the party," Shivakumar was told over phone. The CM has been asked not to entertain groups of leaders, MLAs and MLCs coming in batches seeking ministerial berths, sources added.

Earlier this week, a delegation of the All Karnataka Sunni Mashaik Council met Shivakumar and demanded that senior MLC Saleem Ahmed be made a minister.

Shivakumar told the delegation that several communities have made such demands for their leaders. "In such a situation, it becomes difficult to make a political decision," Shivakumar said. Pointing to the high command, he said: "My job is to implement the list (of ministers) they provide."

SASTRA University signs MoU with Osaka Metropolitan University

Professor Hiroyuki Sakuragi, President of OMU and S Vaidhyasubramaniam, Vice-Chancellor of SASTRA University with the signed MoU's

Thanjavur-based SASTRA University signed an MoU with Osaka Metropolitan university (OMU) to facilitate joint collaboration between both the universities. The scope of the MoU provides for student & faculty exchange besides promotion of Indo-Japan relationship through various initiatives. The MoU was signed by the university's Vice-Chancellor S Vaidhyasubramaniam and the President of OMU, Professor Hiroyuki Sakuragi. "This MoU is a significant step towards strengthening Indo-Japan relationship and has come at the right time, with Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi visiting India next week for bilateral talks" said Vaidhyasubramaniam. Professor Hiroyuki also expressed his commitment to work jointly with India and SASTRA, in particular. With this MoU, the university has engagement with five other Japanese Universities - University of Tokyo, Hiroshima University.,Tokyo City University, Shimane University & Tsukuba University and commits itself to work closely with all the six of them in various disciplines including engineering, sciences, philosophy, and more.

DH SASTRA University

Curated by DH Brandspot

HC circuit bench sought for Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA, DHNS: Lok Sabha MP from Shivamogga B Y Raghavendra on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister D K Shivakumar seeking the establishment of a High Court circuit bench in Shivamogga district.

Accompanied by legislators from Shivamogga, Raghavendra met Shivakumar, and enjoined on him to discuss the issue with both the Karnataka High Court and the Centre. The delegation also batted for Shivamogga to remain under the jurisdiction of the Principal Bench in Bengaluru until such a time when a circuit bench is established in the district.

Anucheth is DIPR DIGP

BENGALURU, DHNS: IPS officer M N Anucheth has been transferred and appointed as Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) and Commissioner, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

Anucheth

ED raid on Rajesh Exports reveals Rs 3K cr opaque trade set-offs, stock mismatch

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid against Rajesh Exports Limited (REL) revealed Rs 3,000 crore in opaque trade set-offs, a stock mismatch of 40%, and share manipulation involving offshore benamidars, the agency said on Wednesday.

As many as nine premises of REL in Bengaluru and Mumbai were searched on Tuesday by the ED under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The agency found that REL engaged in setting off large foreign trade receivables against foreign trade payables of around Rs 3,000 crore from suspicious foreign parties based in the UAE and other overseas jurisdictions.

Further, the physical verification of stock revealed a difference of approximately 40% between the stock recorded in the factory registers and the actual physical stock found at the premises.

"REL failed to produce documentation in respect of its foreign transactions, including its imports, exports, overseas investments and the settlement of foreign trade receivables and payables, thereby rendering verification of the genuineness of such transactions almost impossible. For example, contemporaneous records and documentation of claimed investment of Rs 1,035 crore into African Mines were neither found nor provided by the company as yet," the ED said.

Various incriminating documents and digital evidence were seized during the search operations. They are being examined, the ED said, adding that further investigation is on.

Suspicious block trades

The ED claimed that suspicious block trades in the scrip of REL were executed by certain individuals whose names also figure in the leaks released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), indicating possible undisclosed offshore links, which are under examination.

"For example, it was revealed that over Rs 600 crore were siphoned out of India through share-manipulation using NRI benamidars," the ED alleged.

Departure from commercial practices

The ED alleged there was a significant departure from normal commercial practices. For example, the remuneration paid to senior management was unusually low compared to the scale of the company's operations.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has not received any salary since 2020, while the Managing Director (MD) was paid only about Rs 17,000 per month, despite the company reporting consolidated revenue of approximately Rs. 7.7 lakh crore, the central agency alleged.

ED raids minister Jarkiholi's brother-in-law in PMLA case

Agency searches multiple premises of senior excise officer Y Manjunath

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday launched simultaneous raids against a senior excise officer and the brother-in-law of Congress minister Satish Jarkiholi.

Sources told *DH* that the raids were executed against Y Manjunath, Additional Excise Commissioner, Enforcement and Crime, Belagavi, and his alleged associates. ED officials from Bengaluru and Goa were primarily part of the searches.

The searches were a result of suspected foreign transactions, alleged money laundering attempts and amassing properties under benami names and entities, sources said. Manjunath is also the son of former Ballari BJP MP Y Devendrappa.

While Satish is the Public Works Minister in the Congress government, Ramesh and Balachandra are BJP MLAs, and Lakhan is an MLC. Another brother, Bhimshi, is an entrepreneur.

Security personnel stand guard as ED officials launch search operations at the house of additional excise commissioner Y Manjunath at Hanuman Nagar in Belagavi on Wednesday.

Searches were conducted in Belagavi, an apartment in Bengaluru, and other properties and offices in Mysuru and Arsikere in the Harapanahalli taluk of Vijayanagara district.

The ED is yet to release an official statement, but sources said that the agency found incriminating documents and assets, including precious metals like gold. Bar licenses were also found, which were being verified for authenticity, they said.

ED officials arrived at the residence of Manjunath at Doordarshan Nagar early in the morning. Manjunath was not in his house in Belagavi but was in the apartment in Bengaluru and was questioned, sources added.

Simultaneously, searches were also being conducted at his office and other sites. Adequate security personnel were deployed on the premises.

A person identified as Yamuna, said to be the close aide of Manjunath, was questioned by ED officials in Mysuru. She was in the Excise Department when Manjunath previously served as Deputy Commissioner of Excise in Mysuru, sources said.

No idea, says Satish

Meanwhile, minister Satish Jarkiholi told reporters at Gokak town that he was unaware of the reasons for the ED raid and hence could not comment on it. "Let us wait for a day for the ED to give reasons for the raid. I am unaware if the raid was political or not," he said.

BJP alleges irregularities in Karnataka land allotment to Kharge family

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Wednesday accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge of misusing political influence to secure land allotments through the Siddhartha Vihara Trust.

The party also alleged serious irregularities in the process followed by KIADB.

Responding to the allegations, Priyank Kharge said the BJP was trying to "please" its ideological parent, the RSS. Talking to reporters, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari claimed that the allotment of land to the trust was facilitated due to the Kharge family's political clout, and raised questions over the manner in which the allotments were approved.

"Today, we are exposing how the Congress leadership, which speaks of transparency and social justice, allegedly used political influence to obtain valuable land through the Siddhartha Vihara Trust," said Bhandari.

In response, Priyank took to X and said the allegations were a response to the immense pressure on the BJP regarding allegations of stealing and embezzlement of donations against the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Trust in Ayodhya.

"People are asking for the accounts of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, but the BJP is working overtime to demand the accountability of Lord Buddha in Kalaburagi. You had five BJP chief ministers in Karnataka. Why did none of them act?" Kharge asked.

Bhandari alleged that the KIADB land allotments did not follow due process and were linked to the influence wielded by senior members of the Kharge family.

The BJP spokesperson demanded a detailed explanation from the Congress leadership, and called for transparency regarding the land allotment process and the role of the Siddhartha Vihara Trust. Kharge also said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been in power for 12 years. If there was wrongdoing, why am I still roaming free and not in jail? My papers are publicly available, and I am ready to discuss them on any platform."

Adani's tunnel road...

Tunnel road, from Page 1

"The VGF commitment of Rs 7,079 crore for both packages remains independent of the project cost estimate and therefore imposes no additional burden on the authority," he said.

Officials also argued that the concession structure has been designed to prevent excessive profits. The concession period will end once the net present value of toll revenues collected by the concessionaire reaches the approved TCV. If traffic volumes are lower than projected, the concession period may be extended by up to 10 years, but no further.

It is learnt that senior officials are also not in favour of re-tendering the project, citing rising global construction costs, currency fluctuations and geopolitical uncertainties. "Revising the project estimates to reflect prevailing market conditions could increase the project cost by 40-45%, potentially requiring a higher VGF commitment from the state," they said.

Urban mobility expert Satya Arikutharam criticised the proposal, describing it as a real-estate project rather than a mobility intervention.

"This is not a mobility project. It is a real estate project. Bengaluru will end up spending crores to harvest more traffic. The new traffic generated by development around the shaft sites will be at least twice the traffic it removes from the roads," he said, adding five tech parks or malls could come up in places that were meant to remain open spaces.

Govt mulling ordinance route for Khata conversion

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is planning to promulgate an ordinance on converting 'B' Khatas to 'A' Khatas in rural areas, Panchayat Raj Minister Eshwar Khandre said Wednesday.

Khandre said 97 lakh rural property owners have yet to receive khatas.

"In total, there are 1.5 crore rural assets. Of them, 53.53 lakh have received e-Khatas. This includes 43.37 lakh 'A' khatas and 10.16 lakh 'B' khatas," Khandre said, adding that the remaining 97 lakh people will require Khatas.

The government has decided to issue e-Khatas to 65 lakh people out of the 97 lakh as they come under gramthana. "On mission mode, we will issue e-Khatas to them in 100 days," Khandre said.

However, the government needs to first resolve technical snags in the e-Swathu software.

"Through e-Swathu, there's no problem with 'A' Khatas. But there are technical issues in generating 'B' Khatas," Khandre said.

"The biggest problem with 'B' khata is the 'assessment number' generated during Khata registration. In 40% of cases, the assessment number isn't matching with the survey number. Without this match, we won't know to whom the asset belongs," Khandre explained.

"Some of these cases involve 'B' kharab, which is government land. I've asked officials to exclude such 'B' kharab lands," the minister said, adding that an ordinance will be promulgated.

PADMA HONOUR FOR KORE

Ex-MP and former chairman of KLE Society Prabhakar Kore receives the Padma Shri award from President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

KIADB: Devanahalli farmers likely to get Rs 2.7 cr per acre

BENGALURU, DHNS

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of officials and landowners on Wednesday, which was presided over by KIADB Special DC.

The Land Price Determination Advisory Committee has recommended a compensation of Rs 2.70 crore per acre to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for 120 acres of land in Gokare Bachenahalli and Hyadala villages of Channarayapatna Hobli in Devanahalli taluk, where landowners have voluntarily agreed to part with their land for industrial development.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of officials and landowners held in the city on Wednesday, which was presided over by KIADB Special Deputy Commissioner A N Raghunandan.

Raghunandan said the recommendation would now be placed before the KIADB Board for approval. He added that landowners who do not wish to receive monetary compensation would have the option of obtaining 10,781 square feet of developed land in the industrial area for every acre of agricultural land acquired.

He noted that the farmers had voluntarily consented to the acquisition of their land and that a final notification under the provisions of the KIADB Act had been issued on June 16 and published in the official gazette. He further stated that the compensation recommended is the highest ever offered in the Devanahalli region.

Falling ovarian reserve raises infertility fears

Ovarian reserve, From Page 1

She said even excess use of mobile phones and exposure to radiation may have an impact.

The ovarian reserve typically declines with age and genetics also plays a major role as some women are born with fewer eggs.

In a few cases, medical conditions like endometriosis, autoimmune disorders, surgeries for ovarian cysts, chemotherapy and radiation therapy have also impacted the ovarian reserve. However, the decline in ovarian reserve among young women belonging to the reproductive age raises concerns, doctors said.

While there is no single particular cause for declining ovarian reserve, doctors said that the research points out that a combination of factors like genetic susceptibility, sedentary lifestyle, smoking, and exposure to microplastic, pesticides, harmful radiation or heavy metals might have had an impact.

"Lifestyle matters. Smoking has been linked strongly with quicker egg loss. Chronic stress, poor sleep, obesity and certain environmental exposures might affect reproductive health in an indirect way, even if the exact level of impact is different for each person," said Dr Apurva Satish Amarnath, Fertility Specialist at a well-known fertility center in Kammanahalli.

However, even women with lower ovarian reserve can conceive and doctors advise early assessment to prevent infertility.

"In order to manage this condition effectively, one should take appropriate steps at the right time. Visiting a fertility specialist for a full assessment is one such step to determine the egg count using blood tests and pelvic ultrasounds," said Dr Anupama Ashok, Fertility Expert at a well-known hospital in Hebbal.

For women with lower ovarian reserve, doctors suggest planning pregnancy at a younger age.

"A 30-year-old woman with a low AMH generally has a better chance of conception than a 40-year-old woman with a normal AMH. Low ovarian reserve should prompt timely planning and evaluation, not fear," said Dr Nayana D H, Consultant–IVF, at a well-known hospital in Whitefield.

If possible, women planning pregnancy at a later stage should opt for egg freezing, doctors advised.

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USTR wraps up India visit, no clarity yet on interim deal

Trade deal, From Page 1

The core elements of BTA included enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors.

However, trade experts felt that the lack of any concrete announcement during Greer's visit could be an indication that India is reassessing the proposed deal.

Greer's India visit followed multiple rounds of chief negotiators-level talks held between the two countries in the past two months. An Indian team led by chief negotiator Darpan Jain visited Washington from April 20-23 for the talks. This was followed by a visit of US team led by its chief negotiator Brendan Lynch to New Delhi from June 1-4.

In mid-June, Goyal had claimed that Greer would visit India to give "final touches" to the first tranche of the BTA deal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in France last week had brightened the prospects of an early conclusion of the deal. This was Modi-Trump's first meeting after the announcement about the BTA deal in February 2025.

The negotiation was announced during Modi's visit to Washington in February last year, with a target to conclude the first tranche of the deal by "fall of 2025".

The failure of USTR Jamieson Greer's June 23–24 visit to produce any breakthrough suggests that New Delhi is reassessing the logic of the proposed deal, said Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) founder Ajay Srivastava.

When US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor declared on May 30 that the deal was "99% ready", expectations were high, said Srivastava, adding that "yet the BTA negotiations remain stuck because the foundation of the original bargain as defined in India-US Joint Statement dated Feb 7 has collapsed".

Under the framework released February 7, the Trump administration offered to reduce reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports from 25% to 18% in exchange for far-reaching Indian concessions on agriculture, energy, defence, aircraft, digital services and advanced technologies.

But the US Supreme Court's February 20 ruling invalidated the reciprocal tariff regime, eliminating the only American concession.

"Washington now is effectively asking India to negotiate on the basis of benefits it can no longer legally deliver," said Srivastava.

"From India's perspective, the proposed BTA increasingly resembles a one-way market-access agreement rather than a balanced trade pact. New Delhi would undertake permanent commitments while receiving little certainty in return," he added.

Over 20k Palestinian kids killed by Israel in 'targeted' attacks: UN commission

Gaza, from Page 1

"Israeli authorities and the Israeli security forces are responsible for crimes against humanity, including persecution and war crimes in the Gaza Strip, and war crimes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem."

Israel rejected the report and called it a "libelous sham".

Its Foreign Ministry said the report "completely erases Israeli children who were brutally murdered, kidnapped and targeted by Hamas, while ignoring Hamas' cynical use of Palestinian children as human shields and pawns of war".

The commission examined violations and crimes against Palestinian children, including serious physical and psychological harm by the Israeli security forces since October 7 2023, when Hamas had attacked Israel.

The Hamas-led attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people and 251 were taken hostage.

"The commission found indisputable evidence with regard to the deliberate, targeted killing of Palestinian children, including since the October 2025 ceasefire, the use of torture, inhumane and degrading treatment, including use of sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinian children, as well as targeting of critical infrastructure essential to children, such as orphanages, health care, and educational facilities," Muralidhar said.

The report calls on Israel to immediately halt military operations in Gaza and ensure accountability for all those with responsibility for crimes against and affecting Palestinian children.

It urges the UN Security Council to prohibit all two-way military-related trade with Israel and impose "immediate, comprehensive sanctions", including travel bans, asset freezes and financial restrictions, on Israeli officials in positions of command responsibility, the leadership of the Israeli security forces and those in military command positions, and soldiers serving in Gaza on or since October 2023 who have or may have committed international crimes.

Cement units choke, pollute villages

Cement units, from Page 1

Farmer Shivaraj Sali of Hanganahalli village in Sedam taluk says he had to dump his tomato, brinjal and chilli harvest because cement kiln dust had coated the crops with a greyish-white layer, leaving no buyers in the market. He alleged that factories often release dust at night or during cloudy weather, creating a fog-like haze.

"Crop yield on my five acres has fallen by 70%, and the soil's fertility has also reduced," he said.

Residents allege that the Kagina river has become contaminated as four factories operate within a 10-km radius in Sedam and Chittapur taluks. Villagers depend on the river for drinking water despite pollution from the factory's wastewater, solid waste and emissions.

Deputy commissioner Ikram Shariff said the violations of pollution control norms had been brought to the district administration's notice and meetings had been conducted with agencies responsible for environmental protection. "Directions have been issued to the pollution control board and the industries department to initiate legal action after monitoring pollution levels and violations by cement factories. We are holding another meeting soon to discuss it."

KSPCB chairperson P M Narendra Swamy said he has received complaints about cement factories violating norms. He also said personal hearings will be called soon based on the report submitted by the local administration.

"We have listed several cement factories for violating board norms and issued them show-cause notices. We will allow them to continue operations only if they present a time-bound action plan to rectify the issue during the personal hearing. A temporary closure order will be issued until they fully adhere to the norms," he said. Shree Cement environment section head Ramesh Bashetti said the company had taken all precautionary measures to prevent pollution and has installed necessary equipment.

When contacted for a reaction over allegations of dust pollution, UltraTech Cement unit head Uday Kumar Pawar refused to comment.

Tech helps cops..

Murder, from Page 1

Investigators said the duo avoided using mobile phones, ATM cards and other digital platforms. They switched off their phones soon after leaving B'luru, forcing investigators to rely on CCTV footage, toll plaza cameras and field intelligence. Special teams scrutinised footage from multiple toll gates and traced the route the pair took as they entered Tamil Nadu.

The police suspected that the duo might head to Kenneth's native in Tiruchirappalli or seek refuge with relatives. Accordingly, multiple police teams were dispatched to different locations across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. "By tracking their movements through toll plazas and other surveillance points, we were able to stay on their trail," a police officer said. During the journey, the motorcycle reportedly developed mechanical problems near Puducherry. The accused then abandoned plans to continue travelling and attempted to stay hidden. Investigators, who had deployed teams in the region, zeroed in on their location and apprehended Shwetha.

Police said the case posed challenges because both accused were together and continuously took precautions to avoid detection.

Shwetha was brought back to Bengaluru for further interrogation.

Karnataka decides to implement Centre's new rural jobs scheme

Rural jobs, from Page 1

"The suit is ready on the grounds that the state wasn't consulted while framing the new law, the funding pattern and weakening of gram panchayats," Khandre said.

Meanwhile, the government has made preparations to implement the scheme in the state, which has 5,924 gram panchayats. "Scores of people depend on rural employment," Khandre said.

"The Centre has made a normative allocation of Rs 5,709 crore. The state government will have to provide Rs 3,806 crore. The CM has been requested to allocate funds. The government has already created a new head of account," he said. He reiterated that the Centre should switch to the earlier 80:20 funding pattern.

"Between 2006 and 2026, the Centre spent Rs 56,492 crore under the MGNREGA while the state government spent only Rs 4,821 crore and generated 182 crore person-days. Now, in a single year, the state will have to spend Rs 3,806 crore, which is a big burden," Khandre explained. Karnataka has also asked the Centre to include 107 works that have been excluded. Further, the state wants the new law to do away with a 60-day "pause period" in which rural work cannot be taken up under the scheme during harvesting, Khandre said.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Ramamurthy Nagar Division,
N.R.I. Layout Main Road, (Near Indira Canteen),
Kalkere, Bengaluru-560016.

No: EE/RMN/BECC/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 23-06-2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Ramamurthy Nagar Division BECC Bengaluru, invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers shall be registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES/ any State or Central Govt. organization for the work details in the table given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Improvements to Roads, Drains and construction of culverts at Punyabhoomi Layout and Surrounding area in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000.00**
2.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and construction of culverts at Kalkere Village and surrounding area in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 30,000.00**
3.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Kalkere NRI Layout, Palm Peak Layout and surrounding area in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 50,000.00**
4.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Raghavendra Nagar, Sir M.V Nagar and surrounding area Roads in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
5.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Pete Krishnappa Layout Road surrounding Ward Area in Kalkere Ward No.06 **CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 30,000.00**
6.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Vinayaka Layout Main Road and surrounding Cross Roads in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000.00**
7.	Improvements to Roads, Drains and construction of culverts at K. Channasandra Village and Surrounding Layouts in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000.00**
8.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Akshayanagara and surrounding area Cross Roads in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
9.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Shanthi Layout, Christ the King School Surrounding area Cross Roads in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000.00**
10.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Manjunatha Layout surrounding area Cross Roads in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 30,000.00**
11.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Post Office Surrounding area roads and Srinivasareddy Layout and surrounding Ward Area in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD(in ₹): 50,000.00**
12.	Improvements to Roads, Drains at Ramakrishna Layout and surrounding Ward Area in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000.00**
13.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Shanthi Layout and surrounding Ward Area in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in Rs.): 70,000.00**
14.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at St. Ann's School Road and surrounding area Cross Roads in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000.00**
15.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Kumarans school Surrounding area in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 40,000.00**
16.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Nandhini Street, Bhavani Street and surrounding Cross Roads in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000.00**
17.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Sri. Lakshmi Tent area and Surrounding Cross Roads in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000.00**
18.	Improvements to Roads & Drains at Selected Roads in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
19.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Rajarajeshwari Layout and Surrounding area in Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 70,000.00**
20.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Dooravani nagar and Surrounding area in Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 40,000.00**
21.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Chandrashekar Layout and Surrounding area in Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 70,000.00**
22.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Gayathri School area and Surrounding area in Vijinapura Ward, No.17 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 40,000.00**
23.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Papamma Layout and Surrounding area in Dooravani Nagar Ward No.18 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 30,000.00**
24.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Dayanand Layout and Surrounding area in Dooravani Nagar Ward No.18 **(ST)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
25.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Cross roads opp. to FCI Godown and Surrounding area in Dooravani Nagar Ward No.18 **(Others),** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000.00**
26.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at SP Naidu Layout and Surrounding area in Dooravani Nagar Ward No.18 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000.00**
27	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Cross Roads opp.to Platform Main Road and Surrounding area in K.S. Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others), Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 40.00, EMD (in ₹): 80,000.00**
28.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at N.R. Layout and Surrounding area in K.S. Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 70,000.00**
29.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Pai Layout Cross Roads and Surrounding area in K.S. Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 45.00, EMD (in ₹): 90,000.00**
30.	Improvements to Roads & Drains and Construction of Culverts at Darga Mohalla Cross Roads and Surrounding area in K.S. Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 30.00, EMD (in ₹): 60,000.00**
31.	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
32.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and labour in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
33.	Filling Potholes in Kalkere Ward No.06 **(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 19,000.00**
34.	Annual Maintainance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 50,000.00**
35.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and labour in K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 70,000.00**
36.	Filling Potholes K. Channasandra Ward No.07 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹):37,500.00**
37.	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
38	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and labour in Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(ST)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
39.	Filling Potholes Ramamurthy Nagara Ward No.15 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500.00**
40	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 50,000.00**
41.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and Labour in Kotthur Ward No.16 **(Others), Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 70,000.00**
42.	Filling Potholes Kotthur Ward No.16 **(ST)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 19,000.00**
43	Annual Maintainance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(SC).** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
44.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and Labour in Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(CAT-I)** **(Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
45.	Filling Potholes Vijinapura Ward No.17 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500.00**
46.	Annual Maintainance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in Dooravaninagar Ward No.18,**(CAT-II(A)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 25,000.00**
47.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and Labour in Dooravaninagar Ward No.18 **(SC)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
48.	Filling Potholes Dooravaninagar Ward No.18 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500.00**
49.	Annual Maintenance of Footpath, Desiliting of Drains and other allied works in K.S Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others).** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD (in ₹): 50,000.00**
50.	Engaging Tipper, Tractor and Labour in K.S Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(CAT-I)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 35.00, EMD (in ₹): 35,000.00**
51.	Filling Potholes K.S Nissar Ahmed Ward No.19 **(Others)** **Estimate Cost in Lakhs: 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date & Time for Queries (only through online) : **04.07.2026, 3:00 p.m. (2)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **08.07.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Date &Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **09.07.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (4)** Date &Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **(Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation).**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Ramamurthy Nagar Division, BECC.

ಸಂ: ಕುಯೋಪ್ರಾ/ಸಕಾ/ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನ/ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ–01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–06–2026

ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ

No.5, Kaveri Badavane, Kushalnagar-571234

ಸಂಘ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಗೆ 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ (ಲೀಜ್) ಅವಧಿಗೆ ವಿತರಿಸಲು ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಪಟ್ಟಣ/ ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ	ಸಿ.ಎ ನಿವೇಶನದ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಚ.ಮೀ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಉಪನೊಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ದರ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಶೇ.18% ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಒಟ್ಟು	ಶೇ.10% ರ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ನಿಗದಿತ ಉದ್ದೇಶ
1	ಬೈಚನಹಳ್ಳಿ	89/5	226.61 ಚ.ಮೀ	12,46,355=00	2,24,343=90	14,70,698=90	147069=89	2000=00	ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ/ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ/ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ/ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ/ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ/ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ/ ಅರೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ
2	ಬೈಚನಹಳ್ಳಿ	9/2, 10/2, 89/4	819.49 ಚ.ಮೀ	45,07,195=00	8,11,295=10	53,18,490=10	531849=01	2000=00	
3	ಬೈಚನಹಳ್ಳಿ	80/2	1078.08 ಚ.ಮೀ	53,90,400=00	9,70,272=00	63,60,672=00	636067=20	4000=00	
4	ಮುಳ್ಳುಸೋಗೆ	1/1	192.28 ಚ.ಮೀ	11,53,680=00	2,07,662=40	13,61,342=40	136134=24	2000=00	
5	ಮುಳ್ಳುಸೋಗೆ	93	839.36 ಚ.ಮೀ	50,36,160=00	9,06,508=80	59,42,668=80	594266=88	2000=00	
6	ಮುಳ್ಳುಸೋಗೆ	43/1, 43/2	1113.05 ಚ.ಮೀ	66,78,300=00	12,02,094=00	78,80,394=00	788039=40	4000=00	
7	ಮುಳ್ಳುಸೋಗೆ	42/14	192.60 ಚ.ಮೀ	11,55,600=00	2,08,008=00	13,63,608=00	1,36,360=80	2000=00	
8	ಮುಳ್ಳುಸೋಗೆ	11/16, 21/1 ಹಿಸ್ಸಾ	1827.81 ಚ.ಮೀ	1,09,66,860=00	19,74,034=80	1,29,40,894=80	12,94,089=48	4000=00	
9	ಗುಮ್ಮನಕೊಲ್ಲಿ	85/4	348.37 ಚ.ಮೀ	20,90,220=00	3,76,239=60	24,66,459=60	246645=96	2000=00	
10	ಗುಮ್ಮನಕೊಲ್ಲಿ	37/4	151.85 ಚ.ಮೀ	9,11,100=00	1,63,998=00	10,75,098=00	107509=80	2000=00	
11	ಗುಮ್ಮನಕೊಲ್ಲಿ	37/4	151.687 ಚ.ಮೀ	10,01,134=20	1,80,204=16	11,81,338=36	118133=84	2000=00	
12	ಗುಮ್ಮನಕೊಲ್ಲಿ	96/23, 96/24	609.11 ಚ.ಮೀ	36,54,660=00	6,57,838=80	43,12,498=80	431249=88	2000=00	
13	ಗುಮ್ಮನಕೊಲ್ಲಿ	97/21	526.20 ಚ.ಮೀ	31,57,200=00	5,68,296=00	37,25,496=00	3,72,549=60	2000=00	
14	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	58/9	466.75 ಚ.ಮೀ	30,80,550=00	5,54,499=00	36,35,049=00	363504=90	2000=00	
15	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	59/9	144.0 ಚ.ಮೀ	8,64,000=00	1,55,520=00	10,19,520=00	101952=00	2000=00	
16	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	60/2	1401.46 ಚ.ಮೀ	84,08,760=00	15,13,576=80	99,22,336=80	992233=68	4000=00	
17	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	66/9	405.17 ಚ.ಮೀ	24,31,020=00	4,37,583=60	28,68,603=60	286860=36	2000=00	
18	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	3/16, 3/17	1044.25 ಚ.ಮೀ	62,65,500=00	11,27,790=00	73,93,290=00	739329=00	4000=00	
19	ಕೂಡ್ಲೂರು	56/2, 62/2ಪಿ, 62/1	817.26 ಚ.ಮೀ	53,93,916=00	9,70,904=88	63,64,820=88	636482=09	2000=00	
20	ಮಾದಾಪಟ್ಟಣ	59/1, 59/2, 59/3	350.25 ಚ.ಮೀ	23,11,650=00	4,16,097=00	27,27,747=00	272774=70	2000=00	

ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು:

1) ಸಿ.ಎ. ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಗಳ (ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ) ನಿಯಮಗಳು–2016 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನೋ&ಮು/ಸಿವಿಸಿ/99/2023–24 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಿನಾಂಕ:25–09–2023 ರಂತೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
2) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಅಂದರೆ 1960ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಒಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಘ ಅಥವಾ 1964 ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಂಘ ಅಥವಾ ಧರ್ಮಾರ್ಥ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಅಥವಾ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ರಚನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಒಂದು ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್ ಎಂದು ಅರ್ಥ
3) ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು 30 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಲೀಸ್ ಅಗ್ರಿಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.
4) ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದವರು ಸಹ ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ರೀತ್ಯಾ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.
5) ರೂ. 200/– ಗಳನ್ನು Member Secretary, Planning Authority, Kushalnagar ರವರ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ (ಖಾತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 64041739956) ಡಿಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಡ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ (D D) ಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು, ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ, ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ (C.A Site) ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
6) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೊಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 30 ದಿನಗಳ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಕಾಲಂ ನಂ. 9 ರಂತೆ) ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಕಾಲಂ ನಂ. 8 ರ) ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ 02 ಡಿಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಡ್ರಾಫ್ಟ್ (D D) ಯನ್ನು (ಖಾತೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 64041739956ಗೆ ಪಡೆದು, ಅರ್ಜಿಗೆ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಉಳಿದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂಗಡ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯರನ್ನಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ನಗರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಸದಸ್ಯರನ್ನಾಗಲೀ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
7) ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಶಾಸನಾತ್ಮಕ ಈ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ವಿನಾಯಿತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
8) ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಶೇ. 18 ರಷ್ಟು ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದವರಾಗಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಯವರ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ, ಶೇ.3 ರಷ್ಟು ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದವರ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿಯೇ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೇ. 2 ರಷ್ಟು ದೈಹಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕ ನ್ಯೂನತೆಯನ್ನು ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿರುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂತಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಹುಪಾಲು ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡಕ್ಕೆ ಸೇರಿದರವಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.
9) ಒಂದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಬಯಸಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ನಿವೇಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು
10) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಆದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕವನ್ನು ಮರುಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
11) ನಾಗರೀಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಥವಾ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕಾಲಂ(9) ರಂತೆ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಲಂ(8) ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ನಿವೇಶನದ ಶೇ. 10 ರಷ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿ (ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ) ಮೊತ್ತದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಪಡೆದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:27/2017–Central tax ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–08–2017 ರನ್ವಯ ಶೇ.18% ರಷ್ಟುಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.
12) ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ (1), (2), (9), (11), (16) ಮತ್ತು (17) ರ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಮೂಲೆ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
(ಅ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನೋಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು. (ಆ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೇವೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರ, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ವಿವರ. (ಇ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಹಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವಿವರ. (ಈ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುವ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು (ಉ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ 3 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ವರದಿ (ಊ) ನಿವೇಶನ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶ (ಋ) ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ಜಾತಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಹು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಈ ವರ್ಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿರುವ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ

ಸಹಿ/–ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಕುಶಾಲನಗರ

CRPF suspends DIG over alleged anti-govt social media posts

NEW DELHI, PTI: The CRPF has suspended a senior DIG-rank officer for sharing content allegedly "against" the government during the recent passage of the CAPF bill, which the cadre officers of these forces had called discriminatory.

This is the first such case among the approximately 15,000 cadre officers entrusted with leadership roles in the country's 10-lakh-strong Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

Officials identified the officer who faced action as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) BC Patra, posted at the force's Tripura Sector headquarters in Agartala.

The 1994-batch CRPF cadre officer returned to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in April after completing a deputation posting with the NSG.

Officials said Patra was suspended a few days ago under Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 10 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 pending a preliminary enquiry. They said the charges involve sharing audio-visual and pictorial content on social media platforms that allegedly called for "changing" the country's lawfully elected government during the passage of the CAPF (General Administration) Bill 2026, which is is now an Act.

However, officers privy to the case said the action was "unjustified". They said the officer is being targeted because he was the lead petitioner among the CAPF officers who fought cases related to their promotions and service parity with the IPS up to the Supreme Court.

CJP founder appears before MeitY panel on X account blocking

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke appeared before a committee of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Wednesday over the withholding of the group's X account and claimed that the authorities refused to provide the blocking order or details of any objectionable content, citing confidentiality.

After the meeting, Dipke said, "I asked for the blocking order. They did not show me. I also asked them to tell me which post on X was problematic. They declined to provide details, claiming that it is confidential. No reason was given to me for the blocking of the CJP handle."

He criticised the government's approach, saying, "They say providing details on why the X handle was blocked is confidential. Isn't the NEET (Undergraduate) paper confidential? How was it leaked?"

PAC seeks report on impact of Great Nicobar project on island

Venugopal asks home secy for details on Rs 81,000-cr plan

GREEN WORRIES

- Venugopal flags clearance of 1.5 crore trees versus govt's claim of just over seven lakh
- Seeks details about land given to private firms
- Rahul Gandhi alleges Modi govt hiding behind military to benefit Gautam Adani

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman KC Venugopal on Wednesday asked Home Secretary Govind Mohan to submit a brief report on the impact of the Great Nicobar Project, a Rs 81,000-crore infrastructure initiative in a sensitive island that has attracted criticism from the Congress and environmental activists.

Venugopal's direction came during a briefing by the officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), including the Home Secretary, on observations in an audit report prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on 'Establishment and Functioning of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Institute of Medical Sciences (ANIIMS)'.

As Venugopal raised the issue, sources said senior BJP MP Anurag Thakur objected, claiming it was not on the meeting's agenda. Venugopal said that the matter was not being discussed; he was only directing the Home Secretary to submit a report, on the basis of which the committee could decide whether to take it up.

Sources said Venugopal asked the Home Secretary if he was aware of the ecological disaster that could be caused by the clearance of around 1.5 crore trees, though the government claims the number is just over seven lakh. He also asked about the land being handed over to private companies.

Acknowledging that the Home Secretary may not be in a position to respond immediately, Venugopal asked him to submit a written report later.

The project was criticised by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who visited the islands in April and alleged that the Narendra Modi government was hiding behind the military to benefit Gautam Adani by building hotels and casinos on India's "most irreplaceable ecological land". He said he supports ecologically balanced development, stressing that no amount of profit is worth destroying what can never be recovered.

At the meeting, sources said, the MPs asked about significant deficiencies in the establishment and operationalisation of ANIIMS, as the CAG report noted that even a decade after its inception in June 2015, the core objective of providing high-quality medical education and robust healthcare services in Andaman and Nicobar remains unachieved due to systemic planning and governance failures.

The report said there was an overall 40% shortfall in prescribed types of medical equipment across 23 departments. Also, 347 pieces of equipment were found non-functional, many lying idle for up to 10 years.

For cancer diagnosis, the CAG also noted that essential tools like Automated Immuno-Histo-Chemistry (IHC) and Cryostat equipment have been unavailable since 2015. The teaching hospital operated with only five functional operation theatres compared to the National Medical Commission (NMC) norm of 10 (recently updated to 6 functional OTs), causing surgery wait times of up to a month.

LS Speaker seeks Uddhav Sena reply on MPs' defection

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has sought the response of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction on the defection of several party MPs to the Eknath Shinde faction, in a move that could have implications for the recognition of parliamentary groups in the House.

According to sources, Birla is likely to decide on the move's legitimacy, as well as the movement of several Trinamool Congress MPs to the Nationalist Citizens Party of India, ahead of the Monsoon Session. Meanwhile, the DMK has asked to be seated away from the Congress.

Birla had asked the Uddhav faction to present its position on the matter after members who were elected on Shiv Sena tickets shifted allegiance to the Shinde camp, which is recognised as the official Shiv Sena following a series of legal and electoral rulings. On Wednesday, two MPs from the Uddhav faction, Anil Desai and Arvind Sawant appeared before the Speaker.

After the meeting, the two leaders told reporters that they had asked Birla if the rebel faction made any representations and urged him to follow the Constitution.

"We asked him if he had received any appeal from the rebels...," Sawant said, adding that the Speaker told them no written representation had been received from the rebel MPs so far.

Desai said that the Tenth Schedule is clear on the matter. "Any group of a legislature party cannot merge into some other party on its own, even if they have a two-thirds majority," he said.

The development comes amid continuing political and legal disputes between the rival Sena factions over organisational control, party representation and the status of elected representatives.

Sources said the Speaker's office has sought submissions from the Uddhav camp before making a decision on issues arising from the MPs' switch to the Shinde faction. The response is expected to outline the faction's position on the circumstances surrounding the defections and their implications.

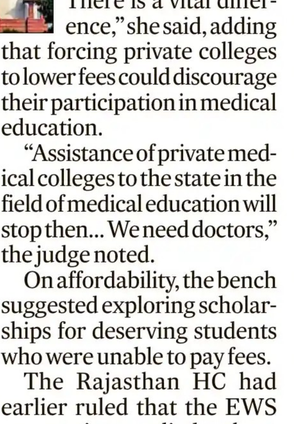
India, China eye early border breakthrough

Preparations gather pace for Xi's likely visit to New Delhi

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Beijing wants progress in talks for an early-harvest deal to settle the least contentious stretch of the disputed India-China boundary, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi likely to host Chinese President Xi Jinping for the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

New Delhi and Beijing are also working on a new mechanism to more effectively manage the disputed boundary. With the relations between the two nations returning to the track after the military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between April-May 2020 and October 2024, New Delhi has also nudged Beijing for an early meeting of the experts on transboundary rivers.



PM Narendra Modi with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi. PTI

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval hosted Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China in New Delhi for a BRICS meeting this week. They also had a bilateral meeting on Monday amid preparations for the 25th round of boundary negotiations expected to be held later this year in Beijing.

A source told *DH* that the two sides discussed exploring an early harvest deal on the less contentious stretches — mainly the Sikkim Sector — of the India-China disputed boundary.

New Delhi had long been opposed to resolving the dispute in a piecemeal manner and had in the past rejected such proposals from Beijing, citing the 2005 pact.

2005 agreement

The special representatives of India and China had reached an agreement in 2005 on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the Boundary Question, which had stipulated that the settlement "must be final, covering all sectors of the India-China boundary".

But the 24th round of boundary negotiations saw New Delhi agreeing with Beijing on setting up an Expert Group, under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, to explore an early harvest in boundary delimitation.

FATAL COLLAPSE

Officials conduct a rescue operation after a three-storey under-construction warehouse collapsed at Taratala area, in Kolkata. At least five people died and 20 others were hospitalised after the incident on Wednesday afternoon, trapping several people underneath the rubble, a senior West Bengal health department officer said. PTI

India pitches BRICS space economy

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India on Wednesday pitched a "BRICS space economy" as a key driver of global economic growth by establishing a BRICS Space Council and boosting a satellite-data-sharing pact currently limited to four members.

This was deliberated at the BRICS Heads of Space Agencies meeting in Bengaluru, where top officials discussed amendments to the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation Agreement to include new members and on the Terms of Reference for the proposed Space Council.

The 2026 BRICS summit will be held in New Delhi in September, where some of these topics are likely to be discussed.

Hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), the two-day meeting was attended by the heads and senior representatives of the space agencies of 11 member countries — Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates.

The key proposal discussed was the formation of a space council, first mooted by Brazil in 2024. The talks advanced the ways to form the body.

"The BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation has already demonstrated the value of collaborative space applications through satellite data sharing among member countries. The discussions on the proposed Space Council will provide greater momentum and continuity to cooperation in the space sector," said Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh.

The remote-sensing satellite constellation is a collaborative mechanism that links the existing Earth-observation satellites of member states into a single "virtual network". Currently, six satellites from India, China, Brazil, and Russia are part of the network.

Instead of building new infrastructure, the member nations share data from their individual satellite assets and ground stations.

With BRICS expanding to 11 nations, the space agencies under India — the 2026 BRICS chair — are in the process of modifying the agreement to fully integrate new members into the data-sharing network.

All 15 victims suffocated to death in Lucknow blaze

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

All the 15 people, mostly students, who were killed in a massive fire at a building here on Monday, had died from suffocation caused by inhaling the deadly smoke.

According to the postmortem report of the deceased, the primary cause of death was 'suffocation' from inhaling smoke that emanated from the burning plastic, foam and other synthetic articles.

The report said that no extensive burn injuries were found on the deceased, which could have killed them.

The doctors said that smoke particles and soot were found in the nasal passages and the respiratory system of the victims. There was swelling near their faces and eyes.

The doctors added that in the fire incidents, toxic gases, which emanate from the burning of plastic, foam and synthetic materials, contain poisonous gases like carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide and inhaling them can cause unconsciousness and death.

According to the report, the room was closed from all directions as a result of which toxic gases quickly entered the respiratory system of the victims, and they died within 15-20 minutes.

Fifteen people, mostly students, were killed and around 10 were injured when the building was struck by a massive fire on Monday.

The UP government has formed an SIT to probe the incident. Four officials, including two engineers of the Lucknow Development Authority, were suspended after it was found that the building had a residential permit, but the owners had allowed commercial activities there without any fire safety equipment.

Over 100 coaching centres sealed

Within days of the death of 15 people in a massive fire at an animation-cum-coaching centre in Lucknow, the government launched campaign across the state against coaching institutes operating from unauthorised buildings and without proper safety standards, reports DHNS.

Over 100 coaching institutes, including Khan Sir's coaching centre, were sealed in different parts of the state. Reports said that 59 coaching centres were sealed in Ghaziabad, six in Hapur, 12 in Raebareli, 46 in Shamli, seven in Ayodhya, 40 in Baghpat and 28 in Bijnor. Some libraries, nursing homes and hotels were also sealed for failing to meet safety standards.

SC declines to link EWS quota with reduced medical fees

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Wednesday turned down a plea to fix the fees for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) candidates in private medical colleges in line with what is charged in government medical colleges.

The plea claimed that steep fees in private medical colleges made reservation practically meaningless for eligible candidates.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi dismissed the petition filed by an EWS candidate and upheld a Rajasthan High Court order that had validated the fee structure fixed by the State Fee Regulatory Committee.

The petitioner highlighted that tuition fees in Rajasthan's private medical colleges ranged between Rs 18.9 lakh and Rs 25 lakh per year, and argued that candidates from families earning below Rs 8 lakh simply could not afford such amounts, rendering the EWS quota ineffective.

However, the apex court made it clear that private educational institutions could not be compelled to offer courses at subsidised rates similar to government colleges.

"You cannot say private educational institutions shall charge the same as government institutions. That cannot be," the bench observed during the hearing.

Justice Nagarathna emphasised the fundamental difference between the two. "These are self-financing institutes. For government ones... they get grant (subsidies) from the State. There is a vital difference," she said, adding that forcing private colleges to lower fees could discourage their participation in medical education.

"Assistance of private medical colleges to the state in the field of medical education will stop then... We need doctors," the judge noted.

On affordability, the bench suggested exploring scholarships for deserving students who were unable to pay fees.

The Rajasthan HC had earlier ruled that the EWS reservation applied only at the stage of admission and did not entitle candidates to subsidised or differential fees in private institutions.

Top court favours lower cut-offs for govt doctors seeking super-speciality seats

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

BIG MOVE

- The bench observes govt doctors serve in the public health system while preparing for higher studies
- The court sought a response from the TN govt and other authorities
- Plea seeks to restrain the state from surrendering 152 vacant Super Speciality medical seats to the All India Quota

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said serving government doctors deserved a lower qualifying percentile in Super Speciality courses as they serve in the public health system while preparing for higher studies.

The top court sought a response from the Tamil Nadu government and other authorities on a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu Medical Officers Association seeking to restrain the state from surrendering 152 vacant in-service Super Speciality medical seats (2025-26) to the All India Quota.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi sought a response from the National Medical Commission, while making strong oral observations in favour of in-service government doctors.

"A government doctor, if acquires more skills, will serve public health better than a private doctor. How many (patients) can afford private hospitals?" Justice Nagarathna asked.

The bench underscored that in-service candidates form a distinct category and should not be equated with candidates who study full-time. "In every state, there are in-service candidates. They are government doctors. They are there for public health. The cut-off for them must be lesser. Reason being, they are serving and studying," she said.

Justice Nagarathna added, "On the other hand, there are students... sitting at home and studying. They are not serving. In-service is a different channel... You just enable them to achieve greater skills... super-speciality. There must be, according to me, a lesser cutoff for them."

The plea challenged the surrender of 152 unfilled DM and MCh seats to the All India Quota following an earlier order by a coordinate bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha in the Tamilveni case.

The petitioners argued that the in-service doctors' association was not heard in that matter, and surrendering the seats before completing the second round of counselling and deciding on percentile reduction would severely prejudice government doctors and Tamil Nadu's public health infrastructure.

Senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for the petitioners, informed the court that while the percentile has been reduced for postgraduate seats, the same has not been done for super-speciality seats.

He urged the court to allow in-service candidates to compete for these seats in a subsequent round if the qualifying percentile is lowered.

The bench, however, clarified that it was not modifying the earlier order of the coordinate bench. The matter has been posted for further consideration on July 15.

ANTI-GRAFT DRIVE

One man's website is putting TN's bribe-takers on notice

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI DHNS

"Whether it is Rs 50 or Rs 10 crore, every bribe leaves a trail." This is the welcome message on Makkal Saatchi (People's Corruption Witness) — a website that has now become one of the most powerful tools against graft in Tamil Nadu.

Launched by 30-year-old Deepak Sivakumar, a software engineer employed at an MNC, the portal has made it easy for the common man to report corruption in government offices.

Though it is a private initiative with no government support, officials are, in fact, taking cognisance of the complaints filed on the portal and taking action against the offenders, provided there is enough proof.

In the last month, about 420 complaints have been filed by people, whose names remain anonymous, from across the state, with most of them relating to demands for bribes from government officials. The maximum number of complaints relates to TASMAC, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB), and departments like Registration, with people reporting demands for bribes.

A die-hard fan of Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for a long time, Deepak took about 10 days to design the portal and take it live. "I was watching the CM's swearing-in ceremony on TV on May 10 when the idea of launching a portal to report complaints of overcharging at TASMAC liquor outlets took root in my mind," Deepak told *DH*.

Deepak himself had a bad experience, having to bribe policemen and other government officials to receive his father's death certificate and to get out of a fake drunk-driving case. He said that 90% of people who go to government offices and are asked to pay bribes are helpless and lack anonymous avenues to complain.

The portal to report complaints about overcharging Rs 10 or Rs 20 per bottle at the outlets became an instant hit. If one department alone is so corrupt, what about other sectors, and why not launch another portal for reporting bribes and corruption across government departments? This thought gave birth to Makkal Saatchi.

Government officials seem to follow the portal and take action. A week back, government land surveyors in Namakkal district dropped a detailed message on the portal, denying allegations of corruption.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Signals from a faltering monsoon

With the southwest monsoon in an extended pause, India may be bracing for the consequences of deficient rainfall across sectors. The current deficit is in the range of 40-45% in most regions, and as high as 66% in the western and central regions, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. Sowing of kharif crops such as paddy, cereals, pulses, and soybean has already been affected, with the shrinking in the overall sowing area estimated at around 4%. In Karnataka, sowing has covered only 30% of the seasonal target. In many regions, farmers are waiting for the rains to start planting. Projections of a fall in farm output and a rise in the prices of food items are getting increasingly real. Strong foodgrain stocks offer respite, but it will take more to keep the food inflation down. The impact on rural livelihoods and demand will show across diverse sectors of the economy. Since rural incomes are likely to feel the first shocks of a weak monsoon, monitoring support schemes and employment programmes needs to be prioritised.

Reservoir levels have started coming down, with about 80% reported at less than half their capacity. This signals water stress and shortfalls in power generation. As irrigation remains a major area of concern, a persistent rain deficit and further depletion of the reservoir levels threaten to extend the fallout to the rabi season. Drought conditions have also been projected in isolated pockets. The Union Ministry of Agriculture has identified 326 districts across 12 states as highly vulnerable to severe agricultural impacts and potential drought conditions. The government has released a revised manual detailing drought management. It has also factored in the El Niño estimations in its assessment of the emerging situation.

The rainfall deficit is threatening crops and rural livelihoods. Preparedness can no longer wait

There is still time for the monsoon to recover and mitigate some of the damage caused by its faltering start. The current pause does not necessarily mean that rainfall will remain deficient across regions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s broader seasonal outlook suggests that the overall picture may not be as grim as present conditions indicate. But hope cannot substitute for preparedness. Governments must plan for the worst-case scenario now, not after the reservoirs run dry. Drought-resistant seeds, fertilisers, and other critical inputs should be made available without delay. A prolonged rainfall deficit can trigger crop losses, deepen rural distress, and erode already fragile farm incomes. It is in such periods of uncertainty that farmers become most vulnerable to debt, making timely government support essential.

A necessary check on digital abuse

Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) M A Saleem's comprehensive Standing Order mandating the immediate registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) in cases involving the non-consensual circulation of intimate photographs and videos is a long-overdue measure. The directive closes a dangerous loophole that has long allowed police stations to evade responsibility by claiming that a victim had initially consented to the recording of the content. The order rightly clarifies a fundamental legal principle: consent to create an image is not consent to publish or distribute it. What is surprising is that such a clarification was required in the first place. The offences covered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act are cognisable. The law is unambiguous. Every police officer is expected to know that an FIR must be registered when information disclosing a cognisable offence is received. Refusing complaints or forcing victims to run from one police station to another is not merely insensitive; it amounts to a dereliction of duty.

Unfortunately, the Karnataka Police has repeatedly made headlines for the wrong reasons. Despite clear judicial pronouncements and statutory obligations, complaints of police refusing to register FIRs continue to surface. The government must disclose how many officers have faced disciplinary action for such refusals. Unless accountability accompanies directives, even the best orders risk remaining on paper. The consequences of inaction are devastating, particularly for women. A single intimate photograph or video shared without consent can destroy reputations, careers, and relationships. Victims often suffer humiliation, psychological trauma, cyberstalking, and blackmail. Deepfakes and digitally manipulated content have made matters worse. In the age of social media, a post can reach millions within minutes, making the harm virtually irreversible.

Mandatory FIRs are a start, but swift platform action is critical to contain the non-consensual spread of intimate content

Compounding the problem are the safe harbour protections under Section 79 of the IT Act enjoyed by platforms. While intermediaries claim immunity for third-party content, they profit from the engagement generated by the very material that causes harm. Victims frequently encounter automated responses and prolonged delays when seeking the removal of unlawful content. That is why registering an FIR is only the first step. Police must immediately contact platforms and issue takedown notices the moment a complaint is received. Every minute of delay increases the reach of harmful content. Major social media platforms should appoint dedicated liaison officers in every state to enable round-the-clock coordination with law enforcement agencies. Protecting privacy and dignity in the digital age requires not only swift policing but also equally swift cooperation from technology companies.

RIGHTS WITHOUT REMEDY

The crowded room of Article 21

From sleep to footpaths, the list keeps growing. The gap between promise and delivery widens

V VENKATESAN

Rights, like coins, can be minted into worthlessness. Ronald Dworkin thought of them as trumps that the citizen holds against the State. India's Supreme Court has preferred to treat them as gifts it may bestow, and the right to life has become its most generous purse. Its latest grant, in *Maniyar Iliyaz v. P. Ayyappan*, is a fundamental right to walk on a demarcated footpath. The case came from a tragedy. A father lost his five-year-old son to a tanker on a road with no footpath. The Court read the right into Articles 19 and 21 and placed the pedestrian above the motorist. The sentiment is unimpeachable. The question it revives is not. What is a right worth once everyone has one?

Begin with how the room filled. In its early decades, the right to life was read narrowly. *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) changed everything. The Court held that any procedure touching life or liberty had to be fair, just, and reasonable, and that life meant more than mere existence. From that premise, the catalogue grew: livelihood *(Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation, 1985)*, shelter *(Chameli Singh v. State of U.P., 1996)*, health *(Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity v. State of West Bengal, 1996)*, a clean environment *(Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar, 1991)*, education *(Mohini Jain v. State of Karnataka, 1992)*, speedy trial *(Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar, 1979)*, privacy (*K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2017*), and freedom from the adverse effects of climate change *(M.K. Ranjitsinh v. Union of India, 2024)*.

Some entries are foundational. Others are ornamental. The emblem of the ornamental is the right to sleep, declared in *In Re Ramlila Maidan Incident* (2012) after the police charged a sleeping crowd near midnight. If sleep is a fundamental right, the sceptic asks, what is not?

A Constitution that elevates everything to the rank of fundamental right elevates nothing in particular. A right that overrides all else, the critics say, can keep that force only while such rights are rare. Multiply them, and each must yield to the next, until none truly trumps.

The framers placed civil liberties in Part III and made them enforceable. They placed social goals in Part IV and made them, by Article 37, expressly non-justiciable. The choice was deliberate. B R Ambedkar defended it in the Constituent Assembly, and Granville Austin called the two parts together the conscience of the Constitution. By reading health, shelter, livelihood, and now footpaths into Article 21, the Court has dissolved that line. Aspirations the framers withheld from the courtroom have been ushered back in.

A negative right asks the state to refrain, and a court can enforce restraint. A positive right asks the state to build, fund, and prioritise. Footpaths, hospitals, and houses come from finite budgets, and every rupee for one is a rupee denied another. The jurist Lon Fuller called these polycentric problems ill-suited to adjudication, because a court hears two parties while a budget reconciles thousands of claimants. A bench can declare the entitlement. It cannot levy the tax or lay the brick.

A crucial distinction

The record bears this out. Much of the expansion travelled on public interest litigation, which loosened standing and turned the Court into a roving commission. Anuj Bhuwania has shown how this hollowed out the safeguards that make adjudication trustworthy. Pratap Bhanu Mehta named the larger drift the rise of judicial sovereignty, power accumulating without the answerability of elected office.

The defence is real and must be met. Upendra Baxi celebrated this expansion as the democratisation of the Court, the moment it opened its doors to the prisoner and the pavement dweller. Before *Olga Tellis*, the slum dweller evicted at dawn had no constitutional language for his grievance. *Puttaswamy* now guards privacy against a surveillance state. The right to education, first read in by the Court, was later written into the Constitution. A living document must grow, and a court that refused to read dignity into the word life would have failed the poor it was meant to protect.

The rejoinder is to notice which cases aged well. The durable victories are the negative ones: protection against arbitrary deprivation and custodial abuse, privacy, and fair procedure. They held because the remedy matched the right. The hollow declarations are the positive flourishes that promised what the Court could not deliver. The irony is sharpest in *Olga Tellis* itself. Having declared a right to livelihood, the Court permitted the very evictions before it.

Nearly half a century after *Hussainara* declared speedy trial a fundamental right, undertrials still constitute the majority of the prison population. The right to sleep survives on paper while the cities grow louder. Declaration has been generous. Enjoyment has been scarce.

This is the deeper truth the footpath ruling should prompt. The Constitution's social promise was always meant to be redeemed primarily through politics and administration, through budgets voted and works built, and through the pressure of an organised citizenry. When the Court takes that labour upon itself by declaration, one of two things follows. Either it cannot deliver, and the failure is laid at its door, draining the authority of the whole catalogue. Or it tries, and finds itself running municipal works from a courtroom, which it does badly and without a mandate.

The test of meaningfulness is not how many rights Article 21 contains. A Constitution is not improved by lengthening its list of promises. The test is how many a citizen can actually claim.

By that measure, the list is long and the dividend thin. The right to walk will matter only if it acquires what the right to sleep never did: a duty-bearer who can be made to pay, a budget line that can be traced, and a remedy that ends in laid concrete rather than a quotable sentence.

(The writer is Contributing Editor at Supreme Court Observer*)*

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The taste of memory

When served with a new recipe, we instinctively dip into our mental pantry for comparisons

PRIYANKA SINGH

The remarks by Shashi Tharoor in a viral *idli-rasgulla* debate struck me as amusing. At first glance, it appears to be a playful contest between two beloved dishes. Beneath the playful exchanges lay a familiar truth: food is never just food. It is memory, habit, geography, and emotion, all folded into a single bite. The debate brought back childhood memories.

In the late 1980s, my father was on deputation at LBSNAA, Mussoorie. Life there was marked by a sense of community. Families frequently gathered for lunches and dinners bringing together people from different parts of the country. One such afternoon, we were invited by a family from Madras, now Chennai. As was often the case in those days, the women instinctively drifted towards the kitchen, helping the hostess with serving, arranging dishes, and ensuring that everyone was looked after. The men occupied the drawing room, conversations flowing easily over tea and politics. Children floated between rooms, playing and waiting impatiently for lunch. My paternal aunt, our Buaji, was visiting us from the village. She was a woman of few words and preferred the company of children to the formal exchanges of adults.

Lunch was a generous South Indian spread. There were *dosas, sambhar*, coconut *chutney*, rice preparations and, large platters of soft white *idlis*. Buaji had taken four of them. A little later, she appeared beside me, attempting to transfer the *idlis* onto my plate.

As children, we had been taught simple but firm rules of dining: take only as much as you can eat, return for another helping if necessary, and never waste food. Alarmed at the prospect of inheriting four unwanted *idlis*, I protested. "I took them for *rasgullas*," she said, laughing. Her confusion was perfectly logical. Her eyes had recognised a *rasgulla* long before her tongue encountered an *idli*. By then, however, she was left with four of them on her plate and an unexpected culinary lesson to carry home.

Years later, a similar confusion ensued between noodles and *sewaiyan*.

A cousin visiting from the village was offered a bowl of instant noodles. Unfamiliar with them, he asked what they were. Looking for a quick explanation, they were described as something like *sewaiyan*, which is typically sweet, fragrant with cardamom and sugar. The comparison seemed satisfactory until the bowl arrived. He stared at the savoury noodles with visible bewilderment as the strands didn't match his expectations in either appearance or flavour.

We rarely encounter unfamiliar food as blank slates. Instead, we instinctively search our mental pantry for comparisons. Perhaps that is why food debates evoke such strong emotions. What people defend is often not a recipe but a recollection. Behind every beloved dish lies a landscape of associations—family meals, celebrations, childhood routines, regional histories, and cultural belonging.

Looking back, what remains with me is not the taste of the *idli* or the noodles. It is the laughter that accompanied both misunderstandings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Choose ministers on merit, not caste

Apropos 'Growing clamour for berths delays expansion of Shivakumar's cabinet' (Jun 24), with around 20 berths available in the Cabinet, those who secured ministerial positions in the Siddaramaiah-led government would be keen to renew their stints and may also be desirous of obtaining major portfolios. Aspirants, especially those who have won multiple elections, would likewise be hoping for a chance. Chief Minister D K Shivakumar should analyse the performance of those who served as ministers and drop the laggards, who certainly do not deserve berths. While allotting Cabinet positions to the younger lot of MLAs and MLCs would be a wise step, merit should override caste as the criterion for selection.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Conserve lakes

I refer to 'Blessed with lakes, but plagued by neglect and poor upkeep amid growing urban pressure' (Jun 23). The shrinking green cover and poor maintenance of parks and lakes in Bengaluru are deeply concerning. Rapid urbanisation appears unstoppable and even inevitable; the authorities concerned must take immediate action to preserve lakes and maintain parks. They must ensure sustainable urban planning, as green spaces are vital for air quality as well as for the recreational activities of residents. Public participation and stricter monitoring will significantly contribute to the protection of these natural resources for future generations.
Suhasini Thapa Mangar, Bengaluru

Right to walk

The Supreme Court's landmark ruling on pedestrian rights is a breath of fresh air for every Indian. By declaring safe, demarcated footpaths a fundamental right under Article 21, the apex court has restored dignity to walking – 'the simplest of simple human activities'. This judgment, born from a schoolboy's tragic death, rightly shifts our roads from vehicle-centric to people-centric. Making governments accountable for safe pavements for pedestrians will protect children, the elderly, and the disadvantaged. India must now walk the talk and build cities that serve citizens, not just cars.
Vaithianathan Subramanian, Madurai

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The defection of Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs was part of a pre-planned strategy; a script written in advance.

Nana Patole, Congress leader

Words, how little they mean when they are too late.

Taylor Swift

TO BE PRECISE

All India Football Federation proposes name change

IN PERSPECTIVE

A dividend India must not squander

Without a push for productive jobs and skilling, the country's demographic window could close unfulfilled

SANTOSH MEHROTRA AND JAJATI PARIDA

The road to Viksit Bharat runs through India's labour market. The country's demographic dividend (DD) offers a rare opportunity to accelerate growth and prosperity. As the working-age share of the population rises, and the share of dependents (those below 15, and over 60 or 64 years) falls, several benefits emerge for the economy. First, it gives the nation the freedom to invest resources in physical capital, job training, and technological progress. The second result is the rise in the labour force as children reach working age. Third, it raises women's workforce participation following a fall in fertility. Fourth, as an increasing proportion of the population joins the labour force—and assuming they get jobs, especially in industry or services—the rise in productivity should raise incomes and hence, savings. This would enable an increase in investment, facilitating a rise in the growth rate.

Much of India's economic optimism rests on its demographic dividend, yet rapidly falling fertility rates and an ageing population call for urgency to capitalise on this opportunity, which is expected to peak by 2040. This advantage is neither automatic nor permanent. For decades, India has been celebrated as the world's youngest major economy. But it cannot remain young forever.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – the average number of children a woman will have in her reproductive life – has declined sharply from 2.2 in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 2.0 in NFHS-6 (2023-24), signalling a phase of sustained low fertility. As TFR continues to decline and life expectancy rises, the share of the working-age population will eventually begin to shrink after 2040 while the elderly population expands.

From around 37% in 2016-17, the proportion of employed people aged 45 years and above increased by 12 points in six years, to 49%. In other words, in 2022-23, half of India's workforce comprised people aged over 45 years. They will all be at or over retirement age in 15 years, by 2040.

As projected in our recent book *India Out of Work*, India's demographic dividend is approaching a critical turning point. The working-age population (15-59 years) is projected to rise from 735 million in 2011 to nearly 1 billion by the early 2040s, before gradually declining thereafter. At the same time, the youth population (15-29 years) has already peaked and is expected to shrink steadily. After 2040, population ageing will become a defining feature of India's economy.

India can maintain high growth rates only when its demographic dividend is available. China provides context here: its dividend closed between 2012 and 2015, and amid rapid ageing, its leaders note that, unlike Europe, their country "became old" before it became rich. Notably, China's per capita income in PPP terms is 2.5 times that of India's.

A race against time

An ageing society will test the country's health services. India's healthcare system remains highly privatised. Out-of-pocket costs remain the highest among countries at India's income level. The Ayushman Bharat scheme has only entrenched the private sector in an already unequal system. Without increasing public spending on health to at least 2.5% of GDP, as was the goal of the National Health Policy, 2017, India may remain condemned to poor-quality and expensive private healthcare, making life difficult for the elderly.

About 90% of India's workforce is outside the scope of social security and pensions. Addressing this gap by 2040 will be a formidable challenge.

The experiences of South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, China, and, more recently, Vietnam, demonstrate that the demographic dividend can be a powerful catalyst for economic transformation. India is the only original BRICS nation whose window still has some years left before it closes.

Yet India's recent growth experience has been marked by a persistent disconnect between economic expansion and employment creation, leaving millions of young people engage in unpaid family labour (40% of the youth workforce), unemployed (10 million out of the 24 million total unemployed), underemployed (54% of the total workforce), or engaged in low-productivity informal work (90% of the total workforce), including in agriculture (265 million, 2025). The demographic advantage is being wasted.

As the window closes by 2040, India faces a race against time to create productive jobs, raise workforce skills, and bring millions of women into paid employment. The challenge before the country is clear: to become rich before it becomes old. The success or failure of this endeavour will determine whether the demographic dividend lays the foundation of a high-income economy or a historic missed opportunity.

(Santosh is a former professor of Economics, JNU, and research fellow, IZA Institute of Labour Economics; Jajati is a professor of Economics, University of Hyderabad)

Ayodhya controversy: A headache BJP did not need in UP

DATELINE Lucknow

SANJAY PANDEY

For a party that had coined the slogan '*Jo Ram ko laye hain, ham unko layenge*' (we will bring to power those who brought Lord Rama to Ayodhya), the controversy surrounding the alleged embezzlement of offerings at the Ram Temple could not have come at a worse time.

The next Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh are due in 2027, and the Opposition parties have already indicated that the issue will be high on their electoral agenda, irrespective of the outcome of the SIT probe, which they have dismissed as an eyewash.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's discomfort over the issue became evident when several senior party leaders publicly demanded an impartial investigation into the alleged embezzlement, saying the matter concerned the faith of millions of Hindus across the world.

Senior BJP leader and former MP Brijbhushan Sharan Singh went a step further and virtually endorsed the allegations. "There is no smoke without fire. The truth will soon come before the people. Whatever has happened there (Ram Temple) is not good. The smoke that is billowing has some truth behind it," Singh said.

He put his own party in a difficult position when, responding to a question, he said he could not speak the truth because he feared the consequences.

"See, I can't speak the truth, as I will be in trouble. They are very powerful people. I can't speak the truth out of fear," Singh said.

Another senior leader and party spokesman, Rajnish Singh, shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking a probe into the matter by a central agency.

Former BJP MP from Ayodhya Vinay Katiyar also demanded an impartial investigation into the allegations. He stated, "No one is above board."

The saffron party was pushed further on the defensive when several prominent Ayodhya-based seers also joined the chorus. "An impartial and transparent inquiry must be conducted to ascertain the truth," Mahant Kamal Nayan Das, an Ayodhya-based seer, said.

The Shankaracharya of Jyotish Peeth, Avimukteshwarananda, who was also one of the plaintiffs in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suits, alleged that irregularities had been taking place there "since the start of the Ram Temple construction".

Ayodhya-based saffron leader and Dharm Sena president, Santosh Dube, who was also associated with the Ram Temple Movement, claimed that besides cash offerings, jewellery and the Ram *Shilas* made of gold, silver and *ashtadhatu*, which were brought from different parts of India and abroad, were also missing.

Dube lodged a police complaint naming four senior office-bearers of the Ram Temple Trust. He said he would approach the court if the police failed to register an FIR on his complaint.

The Opposition has already begun attacking the BJP over the issue. They have termed alleged embezzlement as 'loot of faith' and the special investigation team (SIT), formed by the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to investigate the allegations, as an 'eyewash'. The SIT has submitted its interim report, and the final report was expected in a week.

"The SIT probe is an eyewash. No FIR has been lodged in this connection so far, and the probe is an attempt to shield the powerful office bearers of the trust and hang the lower-rung employees," said a senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader while speaking to *DH* here.

"It is a betrayal of the trust of the people, who contributed to the construction of the Ram Temple. It is a sin, and the BJP will pay a political price in the next polls," the leader said, adding that his party would certainly make it an electoral issue.

SP President and MP Akhilesh Yadav has asked the court to take cognisance of the matter, while the Congress has demanded a judicial probe into the matter.

The BJP, however, has decried attempts to politicise the issue. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to the *Rambhakts* to wait for the SIT report and not to defame Ayodhya or indulge in character assassination. He also slammed the Opposition. "Those who ordered firing on the *Rambhakts* are now levelling allegations," he said.

"Don't defame Ayodhya. Some people are unable to digest Ayodhya's development," he added, urging the *Rambhakts* not to be misled by what he described as the Opposition's misinformation campaign.

Political analysts believe that if not handled carefully, the issue could become a headache for the BJP in the next Assembly elections. "The Opposition will make every attempt to corner the BJP on the issue," said a Lucknow-based political analyst.

"The controversy will come in handy for the Opposition as it seeks to make inroads among Hindu voters," he added.

He noted that the Ram Mandir had been one of the BJP's most significant ideological and political achievements, and that any controversy surrounding the temple was bound to have substantial political repercussions.

As several trust office bearers have been associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the organisation is also said to be closely monitoring the situation and has sought a report from the temple management.

With the next assembly elections fast approaching and the Opposition determined to keep up the pressure, it remains to be seen whether the controversy will have any electoral consequences.

Far from the spotlight fixed on Iran, Ukraine, Lebanon and other global conflicts, Myanmar has quietly collapsed

The war forgotten by the world

HANNAH BEECH

Internally displaced farmers harvesting crops in a rebel-held region. Over the past five years, more than 90,000 civilians and combatants have been killed and 3.7 million people displaced, according to the UN. NYT

From a lonely hilltop in Myanmar, an unlikely commander peered at the enemy on the next crest. He squinted through dust-covered glasses. As the wind whipped up dry earth, Lone Lone, a rebel leader of five years' vintage, swallowed a cough, then emitted a slight wheeze.

His men saluted. Their bearing was impeccable, even if their weaponry was not.

Throughout Myanmar's heartland, where a civil war rages fierce and forgotten, rebel groups are outgunned and undermanned. The civilians who support them face unrelenting raids by the military, which abruptly ended a brief period of electoral governance with a coup in 2021. Myanmar's generals returned the country to full army dictatorship, fractured the nation and ignited a humanitarian crisis.

Far from the spotlight fixed on Iran, Ukraine, Lebanon and other global conflicts, Myanmar, a Southeast Asian nation of about 50 million people, has quietly collapsed.

Recently, *New York Times* photographer Daniel Berehulak and I travelled with Lone Lone to a rebel-held region. It was in Anyar, a part of central Myanmar where the rebels say no foreign journalists had gone since the military toppled the civilian government and erased political and economic reforms.

A rebel soldier — a boy, really — pointed to the sky where he had been told an armed drone was prowling. Over the previous three days, Lone Lone and a group of his men had evaded drones, fighter jets, attack helicopters and even paraglider pilots intent on chucking hand-held bombs at them.

"I wish you could come to Myanmar without the bombs," he said. "I love my country."

After the 2021 coup, anti-military forces rose up and took control of more than half the country. Some of the rebel groups say they are fighting for Myanmar to become a federal democracy, with more rights for individual regions.

Rebel groups have worked with a government in exile to set up schools and hospitals in a series of disparate territories they call "Free Myanmar." They hoped that these liberated zones would expand and merge until the military, which has kept Myanmar cowering since it first seized power from a democratically elected government in 1962, would be forced to relinquish control.

Anyar, in the nation's arid central region, is one of the most formidable strongholds of armed resistance against the military. In the years since the coup, insurgencies by ethnic minorities have simmered for decades. While those zones endure frequent attacks by the Myanmar military, they also have supply lines to other countries. Arms and intelligence — and the occasional reporter — can enter.

By contrast, Anyar is marooned, even as it suffers the brunt of the military's anger. The area is home to the nation's Bamar ethnic majority and was historically the wellspring of support for the military, which is also predominantly Bamar. But the coup turned many people in Anyar against the military. The cost of this perceived disloyalty has been devastating.

Five years into the civil war, far from the reach of international aid groups, we found a heartland that felt lost in an apocalypse. From the skies above dusty villages and patchworks of farmland ploughed by emaciated oxen, the Myanmar military's instruments of death killed with chaotic impunity. In its isolation, Anyar suffers from crippling shortages, too, of weapons, guerrillas and, increasingly, hope.

To maintain his grip on power, Min Aung Hlaing, the junta leader, stepped down as army chief in March so he could take the civilian post of president. He oversaw stage-managed elections in which the military's proxy party was effectively the sole choice. (In April, Aung San Suu Kyi, the civilian leader he ousted, was transferred from prison to house arrest, according to the military.)

The same month that Min Aung Hlaing prepared to assume the presidency, human rights groups put the monthly civilian death toll in Myanmar at the highest mark since the coup. Nationwide, over the past five years, more than 90,000 civilians and combatants have been killed and 3.7 million people displaced, the United Nations says. Apart from the Palestinian territories, Myanmar was the most conflict-ridden place last year (although not the deadliest), according to the conflict monitor ACLED.

Gen Zaw Min Tun, the military spokesperson, said in an interview that airstrikes were ordered "because we got solid information" of legitimate military targets.

"That many people, civilian people, have been killed in airstrikes is just propaganda," he said.

Death along dangerous roads

At various stops along our route, bombs fell just before we arrived or just after we left — a measure of how common aerial assaults are in Anyar. Gyrocopters, a light helicopter-like craft, struck a village a couple of miles away from where we were at one point. Drones dropped deadly payloads on a community where we had spent the night. We chased the contrails of fighter jets and stared into the sky looking for armed paragliders.

In March, about 240 Myanmar military airstrikes killed more than 400 people, many in Anyar, according to ACLED. In mid-April, two gyrocopters attacked a village in Anyar's Monywa Township, killing at least 17 people. During our time in central Myanmar, we confirmed at least nine killings of civilians that had not been recorded by rights groups. This daily drumbeat of death goes all but unnoticed by the outside world.

"Do foreigners know what is happening to us?" an Anyar resident named San Nyaung asked me, as he swept rubble from the ruins of his home, which had been burned by Myanmar soldiers.

To reach the front line in Anyar, we travelled by night and by camouflage. It took us three days to traverse what would normally be about a three-hour drive. Many places we visited in Anyar had almost no contact with the outside world because of military blackouts — no reliable cellphone signals, no internet.

Nearly 200 houses in San Nyaung's village, which like most of the places we visited we are not naming for security reasons, had been destroyed by fire. Then bombs fell from overhead. Three people were killed by those detonations, including a Buddhist monk. The military had left one final surprise: land mines planted near homes and Buddhist temples, to ensure carnage after soldiers departed.

The roots of Myanmar's civil war reach back to 1962, when a general grabbed power, claiming that the army was needed to prevent the country from fracturing amid incursions by ethnic militias. Those insurgencies, in which ethnic minorities demanded autonomy or even independence, have endured for decades, including one that is considered one of the world's longest running ethnic revolts. But in this latest outbreak of civil war, the rebellion by the Bamar ethnic majority has spread the conflict nationwide.

Lone Lone, 41, never intended to command a battalion of 120 soldiers. It wasn't just his nearsightedness, asthma or chronic back pain that made his career as an armed rebel so unlikely. Born in an Anyar town famous for its working elephants, he studied medicine and then ran his own clinic.

In 2021, Lone Lone was about to go on a grand tour of Europe when the coup intervened and the junta imprisoned Myanmar's elected leaders. Lone Lone joined in peaceful protests. But when the military cracked down, killing hundreds of unarmed protesters — including small children — with bullets to the head or heart, he escaped to a border region. There, ethnic militias gave basic training to white-collar urbanites like him. "I was good at holding a stethoscope, not a gun," Lone Lone said.

Still, Lone Lone commanded respect. He ran a medical corps before coaxing volunteers from his hometown to form a battalion of the People's Defence Forces, a coalition of militias loosely organised under Myanmar's government in exile. His soldiers told us about life in what they called the BC era — before the coup. One was in the second year of his college physics course. Another worked in marketing. Some of the fighters were teenagers when they took up arms. The older soldiers had suspended normal life — date nights, marriage, children, harvests, beach holidays — for what they called "the revolution."

One evening during our reporting journey, I jolted awake in the back of a truck to find that we had stopped, waiting out another possible airstrike. Lone Lone grinned at me. He laughed a lot for a commander in what felt like a hopeless war. "If I cannot win the revolution, then I will become a monk," he told me. "I am trying to meditate always, but sometimes in this world, it is too difficult."

The New York Times

The final sprint before sunset

COL M V SHASHIDHAR (RETD)

There is something profoundly moving about watching champions grow old. Not because they become weaker or stop winning. But because they remind us that even greatness has a finish line.

As FIFA World Cup 2026 captures global attention, two familiar names continue to dominate conversations. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, now veterans by footballing standards, are once again producing moments that remind the world why they have defined an era. The legs may not be as quick as they once were. Recovery may take longer. Yet the hunger remains untouched.

And perhaps that is why millions continue to watch. Every generation has had its debate. Who was greater?

The question has echoed across decades and across sports.

In tennis, Bjorn Borg's ice-cool composure collided with John McEnroe's fiery brilliance. Their rivalry was less a contest and more a clash of personalities. Around the same period, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert elevated women's tennis through contrasting styles and extraordinary consistency.

Years later came Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Federer moved across the court like poetry in motion. Nadal played every point as though it were his last. One represented elegance. The other embodied relentless determination. Together, they produced some of the greatest matches sport has ever witnessed. The story repeated itself elsewhere.

Cricket fans spent years debating Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara. One was admired for technical perfection and consistency. The other for breathtaking flair and audacity.

Basketball gave us Magic Johnson and Larry Bird before Michael Jordan changed the game. Formula One delivered Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost, two drivers whose rivalry transcended racing and became part of sporting folklore. Golf found its own compelling narrative in Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

Athletics perhaps tells the story best.

From Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett in the 800 metres to Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson in the sprinting arena, rivalry has often been the fuel that powers excellence. Usain Bolt became a global phenomenon not simply because he won, but because the world gathered to see whether anyone could stop him.

The lesson is simple. Great champions create records. Great rivals create eras.

Messi and Ronaldo belong firmly in that second category.

For nearly twenty years they have occupied the same stage while constantly raising the standard for each other. One dazzled with natural genius. The other built greatness through relentless discipline. Fans chose sides. Experts debated endlessly. Social media amplified every comparison.

Yet both emerged bigger because of the other. Football became richer. The game acquired a narrative that transcended clubs, countries and competitions.

Children grew up trying to imitate one of them. Some copied Messi's balance and vision. Others admired Ronaldo's athleticism and work ethic. Entire generations found their sporting heroes.

That influence may ultimately outlive every trophy they have won. There is another reason why their story resonates so deeply today. Age.

Every athlete eventually confronts the same opponent. It cannot be outplayed, outrun or outworked.

Time. Most champions fade quietly. New stars emerge. The spotlight shifts.

Messi and Ronaldo have delayed that process longer than anyone thought possible. Even now, they continue chasing one final dream. There is something inspiring about that pursuit. Not because victory is guaranteed. But because the willingness to compete remains intact.

That spirit defines all great champions. They refuse to surrender ambition simply because the calendar suggests they should. Yet sport also teaches another important lesson: Knowing when to stop.

The greatest farewells are rarely determined by statistics. They are defined by timing.

When Bjorn Borg retired at 26, the sporting world was stunned. When Roger Federer walked away, tributes poured in from every corner of the globe. Their exits felt dignified because their legacies were already secure.

The finest champions depart when the crowd still wants one more performance. Perhaps that moment is approaching for Messi and Ronaldo. Perhaps it is not. Only they know. They have already given sport something priceless. They have reminded us that greatness is rarely a solo journey. Long after FIFA World Cup 2026 is remembered for its results, one image may endure above all else. Two ageing champions. Still running. Still chasing one last horizon before the sun finally sets.

(The writer is a defence and strategic affairs expert, certified Independent Director (IICA), ESG advocate and governance thought leader)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: JUNE 1976

Unified Vietnam comes into being

Hong Kong, June 24
The Vietnamese National Assembly was inaugurated in Hanoi today amid North Vietnamese newspaper reports that from now on Vietnam "is a completely unified country." The Assembly was opened by a South Vietnamese, Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Provisional Revolutionary Government's "Council of Wise Men," *Hanoi Radio* reported. Before the opening of the 492-member Assembly, all the deputies paid tribute to the late President Ho Chi Minh by laying wreaths at his mausoleum.

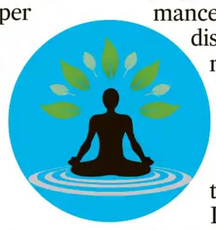
25 YEARS AGO: JUNE 2001

PM promises to expedite review of Naga accord

New Delhi, June 24
Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today assured an all-party delegation from Manipur that the process of reviewing the ceasefire accord with the NSCN (I-M) and its extension beyond Nagaland would be expedited and the territorial integrity of Manipur would be preserved. "The review is under way and the process would be expedited," Mr Vajpayee told the delegation comprising 33 MLAs and three MPs from the state that had called on the prime minister at his residence.

OASIS | ADITI PANT

Unexpected acts of kindness



There are moments in life when the ground disappears beneath your feet. Quite literally.

Circumstances were such that we had to sell our home and move into a hotel with no line of sight as to what we will be doing next or where our next home would be. Suddenly the familiar rhythms of life were gone. Suitcases lined the room. Important papers sat in folders. An entire way of life was stuffed in boxes and plastic bags and the same unanswered question loomed in the quiet turmoil. What do we do next?

In a moment such as this, advice was abundant. Many people expressed concern, offered sympathy, encouragement, and promised to help if we needed anything. But hardship has a way of revealing a deeper truth. When life becomes uncertain, it is often not the expected people who carry us through. It is the unexpected ones. The former colleague who sends a list of housing leads and job listings; the neighbour who drops off a meal without asking questions; and a former supervisor who actively circulates your profile and pitches your credentials. There is something profoundly moving about practical compassion. About people seeing the hurt and insecurities you're trying to hide. It helps without performance. Genuine action instead of distant commentary. There is no magic formula that erases hardship overnight, but such people give back something that was at the brink of disappearing: the belief that tomorrow could be different.

In a world that is getting increasingly unpredictable and volatile, displacement finds people easily. And when a family is displaced, frightened, and unsure of the future, they will not remember every comforting word or text. They remember who helped load the car. Struggle has a strange way of illuminating character. It exposes the difference between just saying you understand someone's situation and truly caring and entering it with them. And later, when stability returns and life finds its footing again, the memory that remains is often not the hardship itself. It is the unexpected kindness of those who stepped forward when there was no obvious reward for doing so.

In the darkest transitions of life, hope often arrives disguised as ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

33°C and a hoodie: Clue uncovers Pune trek killers

Footage from fort triggers deeper probe into fiancee's role

PUNE, PTI

CCTV footage showing a hooded man, later identified as Chetan Chaudhary, trailing Ketan Agarwal and his fiancée Siya Goyal at Lohagad Fort near Pune alerted cops probing the businessman's death, police said on Wednesday.

Police found it unusual that the man was wearing a hoodie despite the temperature being around 33 degrees Celsius, and his overall suspicious movements prompted them to probe Ketan's death further, which initially appeared to be a tragic trekking accident.

In a deadly twist to what would have been a dream wedding, police on Tuesday said 26-year-old Ketan, who died while on a trek on June 18, was allegedly pushed into the gorge by his fiancée Siya (20) and her lover Chetan (22).

Ketan Agarwal, who was engaged to Siya earlier this year, died after falling from a cliff at the historic fort on June 18. The incident was initially registered as an accidental death, with Siya informing the victim's family that he had slipped during the trek.

"While investigating the case, we stumbled upon certain circumstances surrounding the incident that raised suspicion and prompted a deeper probe. We checked CCTV cameras installed at the ticket counter of the fort, where we spotted Ketan and Siya walking together," said a police officer.

While examining the footage minutely, police noticed a man who was a few metres behind Ketan and Siya.

"The man was wearing shorts and a hoodie. The front part of the hoodie was pulled so low that his face could not be seen. Additionally, the man was wearing a headset over the hoodie. In another footage clip, we noticed Siya suddenly looking back and, at the same time, the man in the hoodie suddenly sitting down," the official said.

He said they later checked the temperature of that particular time on June 18 and found out that it was 33 degrees Celsius and wondered why would anyone wear a hoodie in such heat. The officer said police could not immediately inquire about the couple as Ketan's family was grieving, but during the probe, it was learnt from Ketan's uncle that Siya had earlier expressed reservations about the marriage and had once asked whether the wedding could be postponed by a year.

Siya and Ketan got engaged in February and were scheduled to get married in a grand wedding ceremony at Udaipur in November, for which a palace had been booked.

Man killed on Mumbai train after row over closing doors, 1 held

MUMBAI, PTI: A 22-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by a co-passenger on a Mumbai local train during an argument over whether the doors should be kept open amid the rains, in the second such incident this year, officials said on Wednesday.

The accused, Sachin Ramesh Suvarna (30), was arrested hours later following a massive manhunt.

Victim Mayank Lohar was fatally assaulted by Suvarna inside a first-class compartment on Tuesday, which also marked the arrival of monsoon in the city, between Andheri and Borivali railway stations, he said.

Officials said Lohar and Suvarna got into an altercation as one of them wanted the doors to be kept open, while the other objected, citing the rain. During the argument, Suvarna pulled out a sharp weapon and stabbed Lohar in the abdomen and chest.

India sees 49 extra humid heat days annually: Study

This is more than double the global average attributed to climate change

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

India experienced 49 additional humid heat days annually between 2016 and 2025 due to climate change, more than double the global average of 23 days per year during the same time, according to a new study.

Kaitlyn Trudeau and four other researchers from Climate Central adopted a multi-method daily attribution framework to quantify the contribution of climate change to daily dangerous wet-bulb temperatures of 25°C or higher.

They studied four cases of humid heatwaves that occurred between 2023 and 2024 in the United States, West Africa and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Data showed that climate change influenced the likelihood of the maximum wet-bulb temperature of 25°C during each event.

The influence was more pronounced on the wet-bulb temperature than the standard air temperature.

For example, the 37°C mean daily temperature observed during July 17-23, 2024, in Dubai was 1.8 times as likely to occur due to climate change, but the high wet-bulb temperature was "140 times as likely to occur".

The researchers developed a daily humid heat attribution methodology to establish a global, real-time humid heat attribution system. "We find that on average, climate change added roughly three weeks' worth of severe humid heat days globally in 2024," the study said.

The data also indicated the acceleration of global warming. For instance, between 1970 and 1979, an annual average of 101 days was observed as humid-heat days in India. Between 2016 and 2025, the number of such days went up to 141 days per year, with an increase of 35% attributed to climate change.

Much of the impact was on the coastal cities of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Gujarat. Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, parts of Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh were the worst-affected.

Globally, island nations and coastal territories recorded the highest increase in the number of days with high humid temperature during 2016-2025. Palau (280 days per year), Federated States of Micronesia (263), Guam (235), Marshall Islands (214), French Guiana (221) and others topped the list.

People shield themselves from the heat in Prayagraj on Wednesday. PTI

SCORCH ZONE

- Study uses daily attribution framework for wet-bulb temperatures of 25°C or higher
- Climate change added nearly 3 weeks of severe days in 2024
- India's humid heat days up 35% since 1970s
- Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, WB and Gujarat severely hit

Wake-up call

Lisa Patel, clinical associate professor of paediatrics at Stanford Children's Health, and executive director at the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health, said, "As a paediatrician, these numbers are a wake-up call. Dangerous humid heat has more than doubled since the 1970s. We're already seeing the consequences play out in real time. Fans are fainting at World Cup matches in cities like Houston, and that's not a coincidence. This kind of data is exactly the tool clinicians and public health officials need to anticipate where heat-related illness will strike and who is most at risk before people end up in the ER."

Debris scattered across an area after a landslide and flash floods near the NEEPCO project colony, Keyi Panyor district, Arunachal Pradesh, on Wednesday. PTI

Arunachal: 1 dead, 4 missing as heavy rain wreaks havoc

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Heavy downpour for three hours on Wednesday morning triggered flash floods in parts of Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Paynor district, with mudwaters causing havoc, during which at least five persons inside a staff colony of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) went missing.

The body of one of the missing persons, identified as Nirmala Gupta (35), was later recovered. The search was underway for the four others.

A bulletin issued by the Arunachal Pradesh Department of Disaster Management said at least 17 persons had sustained injuries, with three of them in a critical state.

Several NEEPCO staff colony houses were destroyed, while some others were half buried by the mud and slush, with the township remaining cut off due to landslides at several places.

NEEPCO runs the Lower Panyor Hydroelectric Project. It had to release excess water from its hydropower project dam due to rising water levels.

Rescuers struggled for hours to reach the affected areas as helicopters could not be used till afternoon due to inclement weather. A chopper transported state disaster response force personnel and boats around 4.40 pm.

Climate change impact?

Experts believe that although the exact cause of the catastrophe had yet to be ascertained, heavy downpour in such a short span was an indication of climate change's impact on the Himalayan region.

"The Eastern Himalaya region is among the fastest-warming areas on Earth. Consequently, we are experiencing the associated impacts like cloud bursts and rain bombs," climate activist Rituraj Phukan told *DH*.

200-300 mm in 24 hours: Heavy rains batter Mumbai

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

After a delayed onset of the southwest monsoon, heavy overnight rains battered Mumbai and its suburbs on Wednesday, disrupting road and suburban rail traffic and flooding low-lying areas in the metropolis.

According to information collated from the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) and BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), parts of Mumbai received 200 to 300 mm of rainfall in 24 hours.

The neighbouring Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) districts of Thane, Palghar and Raigad also received heavy rainfall.

While Mayor Ritu Tawde was inspecting the waterlogged Gandhi Market in King's Circle, a civic worker fell into an open manhole but was quickly rescued. The mayor expressed strong displeasure to officials at the site over the embarrassing incident.

The episode triggered sharp criticism of the Maharashtra government and the BMC.

"Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad shared a video of the incident on X and targeted the mayor, saying, "This man has fallen into the pit of your inaction and corruption. This is not an accident; your corruption has been caught red-handed."

Arab arrivals boost Kerala's monsoon tourism

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With the onset of the monsoon and signs of West Asia tensions easing, Kerala's tourism sector is witnessing positive signs of tapping the potential of monsoon tourism, with an influx of Arab tourists, including women-only groups from countries such as Oman.

While a 28% drop in rainfall during the initial weeks of the monsoon is a cause for concern for sectors ranging from farming to power generation, the tourism sector generally prefers a moderate monsoon, as heavy rains could trigger concerns due to monsoon-related calamities witnessed over the past few years.

Industry sources said travel advisories issued for destinations such as Azerbaijan and Turkey had also turned out to be an advantage for Kerala tourism, as tourist arrivals to the state remained unaffected even during the peak of the West Asia crisis.

Kerala Tourism Minister P C Vishnunath said that despite the West Asia crisis, there had been a 14% increase in tourist arrivals to Kerala in the first quarter of this year compared to corresponding period last year.

He also said Omani nationals topped the list of Arab tourists visiting Kerala. The state plans to conduct intensive campaigns in other Arab countries, he added.

Industry sources said that while Arab tourists who prefer to visit Kerala during the monsoon generally favoured the high ranges, the trend is now changing, with many opting for adventure tourism and women-only groups travelling to the state.

"On a daily basis, we are now witnessing arrivals of Arab tourists in Kerala, even as air fares are quite high now. A group of 30 women only from Oman is coming down soon," said Kochi-based tourism operator K S A Shamsudeen.

Tourism industry sources also said that a monsoon with moderate rainfall was ideal. "The key attractions for Arab tourists are the greenery and the climate. Heavy rains could lead to travel advisories for high ranges and beaches, which will play spoilsport," said Shamsudeen.

The tourism minister also said that the tourism industry is often at risk when the monsoon intensifies.

"The safety of tourists needs to be given priority and hence travel restrictions to risky terrains such as high ranges are inevitable in case of rough weather. But it could lead to adverse campaigns against the tourism sector. Hence, it is a sort of balancing act," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF KARATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT, MYSURU
DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, MYSURU.
TELEPHONE NO:0821-2529205 FAX:0821-2435575
E-MAIL ID: dhomysore@gmail.com
SL.NO:-SUPPLY/02/2026-27 DATE: 17.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

In order to provide outsource man power service for the hospitals & offices of Health and Family Welfare Services Department in Mysuru, Tender are invited for the procurement of outsource man power service for the post Group-D, Driver, Data Entry Operator, Staff Nurse and Service Engineer. As per the KTPP Act 1999 and 2000 authorized firms are invited through KPPP Portal for e-Tender. Tender value is 2,42,00,000/- and to upload the e-Tender start date is 18.06.2026 and shall be uploaded on or before 17.07.2026 at 05:30 P.M. For additional information about e-Tender please visit KPPP Portal website or make a call to the above mentioned office during working hours.

Sd/- DISTRICT HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, MYSURU DISTRICT, MYSURU
DIPR/DDMYS/364/KSMCA//2482026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/TKR/EE(Civil)/26-27/Cys-30 Date: 23.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites Bid on electronic mode for the various Civil Engineering works in Tumakuru Transmission (Operations) Zone against **Bid Enquiry No's: KPTCL/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT3840, 3847, 3848,3849,3850 & 3851.**

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 29.06.2026 @ 11.30 hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.)
Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana", 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, TUMAKURU.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PAPER DIVISION,
MSIL House, 36 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone : 080-22264021-25
No. MSIL/PD/422/2026-27 Dated: 25.06.2026

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for **"Supply of Reference Books with Technology Enabled Video Learning Solution(QR Code) under 'Lekhak' or any other brand owned by MSIL"**. Last date & time for submission of Tender: **16.07.2026 before 3.00 PM**. For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

Water Resource Department
(Minor Irrigation)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District. E-Mail: eemidklr@rediffmail.com, eemigwddkolar@gmail.com, Landline No: 08152-200049
No:EE/MI/Kol/TA/AE/Tender Notification/684/2026-27/ Dtd:22.06.2026

Short term tender notification no: 06/2026-27/ Dtd: 22.06.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system for the 04 number of works. The tender procedure as per Rule of KTPP Act and standard tender document KW-3 (04 work) shall be followed for Maximum amount of Rs. 100.00 Lakhs & Minimum amount of Rs. 75 Lakhs. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** starts from **Dt:22.06.2026 after 04:30 PM.** Pre-bid Queries to be submitted till **Dt:25.06.2026 till 04:30 PM @ Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District.** Uploading tender documents **upto Dt:29.06.2026 till 04:30 PM.** Opening of technical bid **starts from Dt:30.06.2026 after 04:31 PM.** The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water, Development Division, Kolar.
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:136/KSMCA/2026-27

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
KRISHI NAGAR, DHARWAD-580 005
e-mail : spo@uasd.in Phone: + 0836-2214291
No. Ex.O /EO/Tender-eproc-01/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

Tender Notification
(Through e-procurement portal)

University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad is inviting Tender for procurement of Laptops & Lab/Scientific Equipments through e-procurement portal. The registered, eligible authorized suppliers are requested to visit the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and download the documents for participation in the tender. **Last date & time for receipt of Tender : 13.07.2026 (Monday) till 4.00 PM.** Other Shedule of Events can be availed in the e-Portal. For more details please contact **+91 9480027139** during office hours.

Tenderers need to register with e-procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka B'lore, For details of registration please contact **Ph. No: 080-46010000.** Bidders are requested to get updated with the corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following link in the entire tender process. **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER
UAS, Dharwad
DIPR/Dharwad/350/Deshpadepublicity/2026-27

KSSIDC KARNATAKA STATE SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Administrative Office Building, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar Bengaluru 560 010, Karnataka, India. Telephone: 080-23407011-25, Fax No.080-23389526, E-mail :agmca.kssidc@karnataka.gov.in Website :www.kssidc.kar.nic.in
Ref. No. KSSIDC/FIN/FD/E-Bidding/2026 Date:24.06.2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC), intends to invest its Surplus Funds in the long term deposits with Nationalized / Public Sector Banks. The details of the quantum of amount and period to be kept in long term deposits are as under:

Sl.No.	Amount	Period	Description
1	Rs.50.00 Crores	For One Year (365 days)	Callable
2	Rs.200.00 Crores	For One Year (365 days)	Non- Callable
Total Rs.250.00 Crores			

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of various Events for e-Auction is as below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of e-Auction can be Downloaded	From 25.06.2026 Time.11.00 Hrs
2	Last Date to upload the Declaration in Annexure-B in the e-portal	06.07.2026 before 16.30 Hrs.
3	Live Bidding	08.07.2026 Commences at 12.30 Hrs. & Concludes at 14.30 Hrs.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/JA/1326/2026-27

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE (GOVT. OF KARNATAKA)
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bengaluru-560029.
email: ihealthchild@yahoo.in, Website: www.igich.org
IFT No:IGICH/ADMN/TEND/LAUNDRY SERVICE/2026-27 Date:23.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-portal platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Tender is invited through GOK e-portal platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by the Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru - 560029 from eligible tenderers for the following Service.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	EMD (Rs. Ps.)	Period of Completion
1.	Outsourcing of Laundry Services (DME/2026-27 SE0759)	1,20,000.00	As per Tender Document

(1) The tender documents may be downloaded from **24.06.2026.** (2) Pre-bid meeting on **08.07.2026** at **12:00** pm. (3) Online Queries on **10.07.2026** at **03:00** pm. (4) Last date and time for receipt of tenders on **23.07.2026** at **04:00** pm. (5) Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid on **24.07.2026** at **04:30** pm.

Sd/- Director, IGICH, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1338/CCL/2026-27

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ
ಅತ್ತಿಬೆಲೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560 099
ಫೋನ್: 080–27834655, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: TMCB/ENG/MF/TR03/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವ **11 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 221.48 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ** ಐಟಂವಾರು ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ದೀರ್ಘಾವಧಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.07.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:00:00ಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.07.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:30:00ಯವರೆಗೆ. ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.07.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:00:00 ಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2026 ಸಮಯ: 17:30:00 ಯವರೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **itstaff_ulb_bommasandra@yahoo.com** ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು / ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/1325/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ.

Kerala HC invalidates oaths taken in names other than 'God'

19 BJP councillors in Thiruvananthapuram retake oath after court's ruling

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The case arose after 20 councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation took oath in the names of various Hindu deities, "Bharathamba" (Mother India), "Bharatha Matha", Gurudeva and martyrs of their political movement

Nineteen BJP members of the Thiruvananthapuram corporation had to retake their oaths as councillors as the Kerala High Court invalidated their earlier oaths, taken hours ago, as they did so in the name of various Gods.

The HC invalidated the oaths taken by 20 BJP members, including deputy mayor Asha Nath G S, considering a petition filed by S P Deepak of the CPM, the Opposition leader in the council.

The BJP accepted the court order and swiftly decided that all 20 councillors would take their oaths again.

Since one BJP councilor, R Sugathan, is in prison after being detained recently under the Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act or KAAPA, the other 19 councillors took oath by the afternoon at the corporation conference hall.

It is a tightrope walk for the BJP in the 101-member council, where it has only 50 members. The party gained power with the support of one of the two independent councillors.

Meanwhile, Sugathan is now facing the threat of disqualification due to continuous absence from the council after being detained under the KAAPA. This has exacerbated the BJP's problems.

Sources said that the risk of the LDF and the UDF—which have 29 and 20 councillors, respectively, in the municipal body — moving an adjournment motion compelled the BJP members to swiftly retake their oaths.

The BJP's victory in the city corporation last year received national attention as it was the first time that the saffron party was coming to power in a corporation or council in the state.

Meanwhile, the HC had also invalidated the swearing-in of Sunil Chuvattupadam — a Congress member of the Vadakkencherry Grama Panchayat in Palakkad—who took oath in the name of former chief minister Oommen Chandy.

As per norms, members elected to local bodies need to take their oaths either in the name of god or by making a solemn affirmation.

Close shave for Air India, IndiGo planes at Ahmedabad airport

NEW DELHI/ MUMBAI, PTI: An Air India plane came in front of an IndiGo aircraft on the same taxiway at the Ahmedabad airport after the Air India plane took a wrong turn while taxiing towards the parking bay on Wednesday evening, according to sources.

IndiGo said both aircraft came to a halt at a safe distance from each other.

The Mumbai-bound IndiGo plane was preparing for take off when the Air India aircraft took the wrong turn, and both planes were separated by around 200 metres on the same taxiway, the sources said. "We are aware of an incident where our flight AI 2493 operating from Mumbai to Ahmedabad on 24 June, after landing, inadvertently took a wrong turn during taxiing," Air India said in a statement.

The airline also said there was no compromise on the safety of passengers and crew, and that the aircraft was subsequently towed back to the parking bay. "The matter has been reported to the regulatory authorities and an investigation initiated," the airline said.

Both planes were narrow-body A320s.

IndiGo said its flight 6E 5160, scheduled to operate from Ahmedabad to Mumbai, was briefly delayed while taxiing out for departure after an aircraft of another airline inadvertently took an incorrect turn and came in the way of our aircraft.

FCRA rules: NGOs must disclose social media accounts

NEW DELHI, DHNS: NGOs receiving foreign funds will have to disclose their websites and social media accounts while seeking registration and filing audit reports, according to new rules under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA).

Such organisations must also provide details of publications brought out by them, with brief descriptions of articles with release dates, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a notification issued on Monday.

Earlier, the fresh rules had said that foreign funds for NGOs and other institutions would be restricted to 105 religious, cultural, economic, educational and social activities, while barring any use related to religious conversion.

The MHA also imposed new penalties for violating the law regarding receipt and utilisation of foreign contributions by NGOs, which include spending funds for speculative activities and in states and Union Territories where they are not registered.

At present, 14,460 organisations and institutions hold licences to collect foreign funds. Since 2010, around 52,000 NGOs and institutions had licenses, but of these, about 37,700 registrations have either been cancelled or deemed expired as of Wednesday.

The fresh rules have drawn criticism from several quarters, including the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), which termed them "unnecessary" and said they were aimed at making such activities difficult.

CBCI deputy secretary Rev Dr Mathew Koyikkal told reporters that several provisions in the amended rules will negatively impact the functioning of NGOs working for the welfare of the poor. He said the new rules mandate separate registrations for working in each state, and criticised the requirement that NGOs spend Rs 10 lakh in two consecutive fiscals for ascertaining "reasonable activity".

Ram Temple trust withholds financial details, cites SIT investigation

AYODHYA, PTI: Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust secretary Champat Rai declined to provide details regarding the trust's income, expenditure, donations, bank accounts, land transactions and assets, citing the ongoing SIT probe into allegations linked to the Ram temple project, officials said.

The issue came to light after a complaint submitted to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) by BJP leader Rajneesh Singh was forwarded to the Ayodhya district administration for necessary action.

In a letter dated June 23 addressed to Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Vishu Raja, Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order) Indrakant Dwivedi said he had contacted Rai to seek the information sought in the complaint.

According to the letter, Rai informed him that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry was currently underway and that the probe panel was collecting all relevant records and information. In view of the ongoing investigation, the requested information could not be provided at present.

On June 12, Rajneesh Singh submitted a complaint to the PMO seeking directions to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust to place in the public domain complete details of its finances and assets from its inception to date.

The complaint, forwarded by the PMO earlier this week under a reference number, sought disclosure of details relating to funds collected through the Samarpan Nidhi campaign, donations received through various modes, contributions in the form of gold, silver and ornaments, bank accounts and financial transactions, expenditure on temple construction and administration, and audit & inspection reports.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

"MAY THE CARPOOL RIDE TO MEET ME...
"MAY THE DONUT SHOP ALWAYS BE OPEN...
Order Here
DONUT Kingdom
"AND...MAY I GET TO WORK AT LEAST TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE BOSS KNOWS I'M LATE!"

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

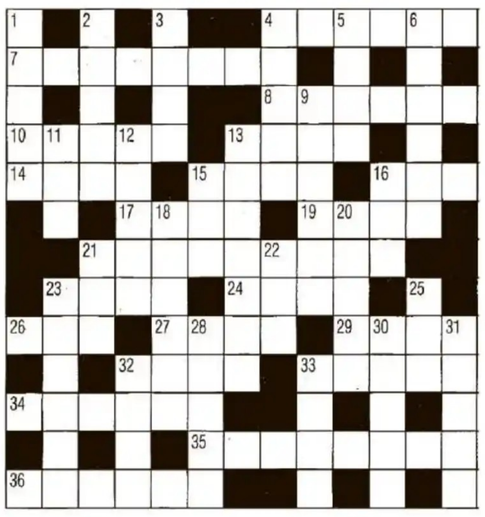
Peanuts

MY LUNCH BOX GOT RIPPED OFF TODAY
THAT REALLY MAKES ME MAD!
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL THAT YOU CARE ABOUT, YOU HAVE TO KEEP IT LOCKED UP TIGHT...

Marvin

WHY DO I HAVE TO MOVE MY CUBICLE?
WE'RE BUILDING A NEW REC AREA WITH PING-PONG, TVS, EVERYTHING!
IT'S GOING TO BE RIGHT WHERE MY CUBE IS?
NO, IT'S GOING TO BE RIGHT NEXT TO WHERE YOUR CUBE IS. OUR NEW "BOY WONDER" SALES REP WANTED TO BE NEXT TO IT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12446



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Where to shoot duck in the W. Indies (6)
7 Final defeat in a pool game, possibly? (8)
8 Song belter maybe? (6)
10 Meat that comes in pots? (5)
13 Possible barrier to free movement? (4)
14 Try to finish fast after a setback (4)
15 Be slow to give £1 to a politician (4)
16 Age of enlightenment? (3)
17 In the pictures, a great story (4)
19 Possibly one contains a bit of veal (4)
21 Birds can be such friends! (9)
23 Drop in and see the lot (4)
24 Skills in heart surgery (4)
26 It's a reasonable question (3)
27 An area to care about? (4)
29 Car mart maybe (4)
32 Move fast to get a small something to chew! (4)
33 In song, it's for ordinary people (5)
34 Unconscious of needing a rest (6)
35 Enlightenment may come so quickly! (2,1,5)
36 Made for the top, as editor (6)

DOWN
1 Quick way to get fit by exercise (5)
2 A bit of a pig maybe sets out to live in them (5)
3 Dear Charles has that roguish quality (4)
4 Of tribal significance, it can carry a lot (5)
5 To make a buzzer loud, takes power (4)
6 In general, like the past? (6)
9 News story about the Left? (6)
11 Member of the side (3)
12 An iron container (5)
13 Would he mend a chair when on the road? (7)
15 Left it blazing? (3)
16 Was he wasted? (3)
18 Building a place for demolition (6)
20 At some stage, she needs a bit of love (5)
21 Female fairy abandoned by the tax people (3)
22 Sooner than be a bit different? (3)
23 Being virginal, mistakenly chased? (6)
25 Something to pay in private (3)
28 Cherubic type highly placed in the CID (5)
30 Competitor who figured in a rail crash? (5)
31 Fanciful stories about Smyth? (5)
32 Dispatch to the southern extremity (4)
33 Money frequently means a high situation (4)

ACROSS
4 Comedians (6)
7 Sanction (8)
8 At a canter (6)
10 Assumed name (5)
13 Impetuous (4)
14 Hollow (4)
15 Writing tools (4)
16 Distant (3)
17 Cooking fat (4)
19 Muslim ruler (4)
21 Gasholder (9)
23 Money, slang (4)
24 Compass point (4)
26 Four-poster, for example (3)
27 Nagging (2,2)
29 Sudden surprise attack (4)
32 Unruly child (4)
33 Smithy (5)
34 Rue (6)
35 Complete (8)
36 Divulge (6)

DOWN
1 Cold dish (5)
2 European country (5)
3 Chuck (4)
4 Free from dirt (5)
5 Net (4)
6 Shirt part (6)
9 Valuable commodities (6)
11 Boy's name (3)
12 Book of maps (5)
13 Beef, for example (3,4)
15 In favour of (3)
16 Tree type (3)
18 Onto land from water (6)
20 Paris underground (5)
21 Deity (3)
22 Consume (3)
23 Expunge (6)
25 Large (3)
28 Of birth (5)
30 Quarrel (5)
31 Discourage (5)
32 French cheese (4)
33 Twelve inches (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12445

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, B-right 7, Hittites 8, Wife 10, A-CID-ly 11, Spru-c-e 14, Neo 16, T-itus 17, Leer (Lear) 19, Taboo 21, Cu-ti-e 22, Rob-i-n 23, To-ys 26, P-iper 28, Bud 29, Lead on 30, Bundle 31, Us-ES 32, Masterly 33, Sop-h-ie.
DOWN: 1, Bewail 2, Guid-ER 3, (Sou-)They 4, Steptoe 5, Strut 6, Isles 8, W-i-NE 9, Flo 12, R-IO 13, Cu-shy 15, Rat-IO 18, E-ffie 19, Tub 20, Bin 21, Cor-O-net 22, RE-D 23, Tune up 24, Odds 25, Sleeve 26, P-lump 27, Pa's-SE 28, Bus 30, Buys.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Locate 7, Roulette 8, Fuss 10, Goalie 11, Robert 14, Wet 16, Relay 17, Rant 19, Nomad 21, Haven 22, Ripen 23, Tail 26, Paris 28, Sin 29, Adopts 30, Big top 31, Epee 32, Contrite 33, Pisces.
DOWN: 1, Ledger 2, Amulet 3, Erse 4, Also-ran 5, Steel 6, Petty 8, Fawn 9, Sit 12, Bed 13, Rabbi 15, Coven 18, Ahead 19, Nap 20, Men 21, History 22, Rip 23, Tigers 24, Ante 25, Lepers 26, Patch 27, Round 28, Sip 30, Beep.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6941 ◆

5			7					
7			3			6		
8				4	1			9
	5					7	8	
		8	2	9	5	1		
	6	2					9	
2			4	8				6
		9			3			7
					2			1

hard

6	1	4	5	7	9	3	8	2
7	2	8	6	4	3	1	9	5
3	9	5	8	1	2	6	4	7
1	4	9	7	3	6	2	5	8
2	6	7	9	8	5	4	1	3
5	8	3	1	2	4	9	7	6
9	3	2	4	5	8	7	6	1
4	5	1	3	6	7	8	2	9
8	7	6	2	9	1	5	3	4

SOLUTION TO 6940

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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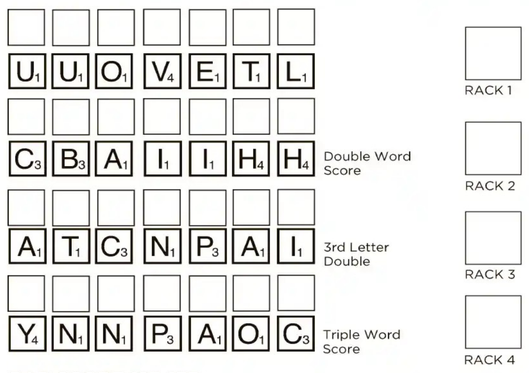
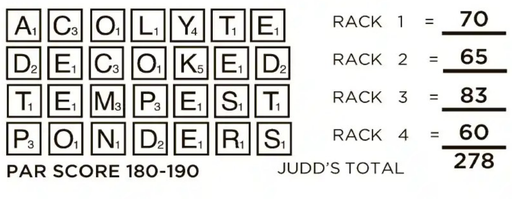

U1 U1 O1 V4 E1 T1 L1
C3 B3 A1 I1 I1 H4 H4
Double Word Score
A1 T1 C3 N1 P3 A1 I1
3rd Letter Double
Y4 N1 N1 P3 A1 O1 C3
Triple Word Score
RACK 1
RACK 2
RACK 3
RACK 4

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



PAR SCORE 180-190
JUDD'S TOTAL

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WFTIS
RDOPO
LAHEHT
CAIFOS

Luxury Retirement Home Coming Soon!
There are so many choices!
Luxury Retirement Home Coming Soon!
I love that they all have a view of the golf course.
12/13
THE SUBDIVISION THEY HAD CHOSEN FOR THEIR DREAM HOME HAD ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HASTY GIVEN SAILOR SHROUD
Answer: When Copernicus theorized that the Earth went around the Sun, it was — REVOLUTIONARY

HITORI-3395

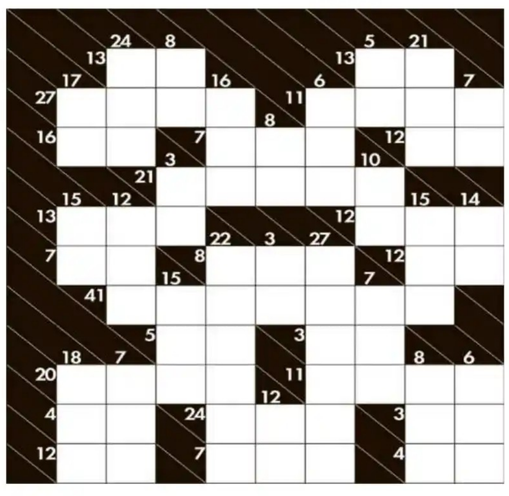
1	2	6	5	1	8	4	3
8	7	3	4	7	6	8	1
5	5	1	8	5	4	7	5
5	8	7	8	3	1	6	2
6	1	8	3	5	2	5	7
5	7	2	2	5	3	5	5
3	3	5	1	6	7	3	8
2	3	1	6	5	5	8	4

SOLUTION TO 3394

■	7	6	■	5	■	4	2
4	3	■	2	7	8	1	■
7	■	5	■	8	2	■	4
6	5	2	7	1	4	8	3
1	2	■	6	4	■	5	■
3	■	7	1	■	5	■	6
5	8	■	4	2	6	3	1
8	■	4	5	6	■	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

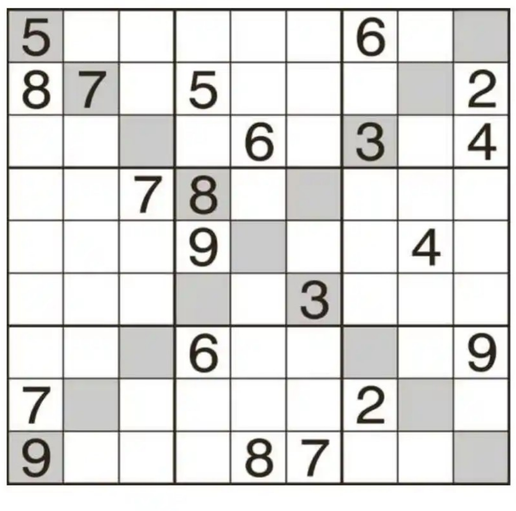
KAKURO- 3395



SOLUTION TO 3394

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3957



SOLUTION TO 3956

4	9	2	7	1	6	5	8	3
8	1	7	4	3	5	9	6	2
3	6	5	9	2	8	4	7	1
6	8	4	3	5	2	7	1	9
7	2	3	1	9	4	8	5	6
1	5	9	8	6	7	2	3	4
2	3	1	5	8	9	6	4	7
9	7	8	6	4	1	3	2	5
5	4	6	2	7	3	1	9	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Ships begin transiting Strait of Hormuz under new UN evacuation plan

Scheme is helping stranded vessels and thousands of seafarers

LONDON, REUTERS

Ships have begun sailing through the Strait of Hormuz under a new scheme by the UN's shipping agency to evacuate vessels trapped there by the conflict, a spokesperson said on Wednesday.

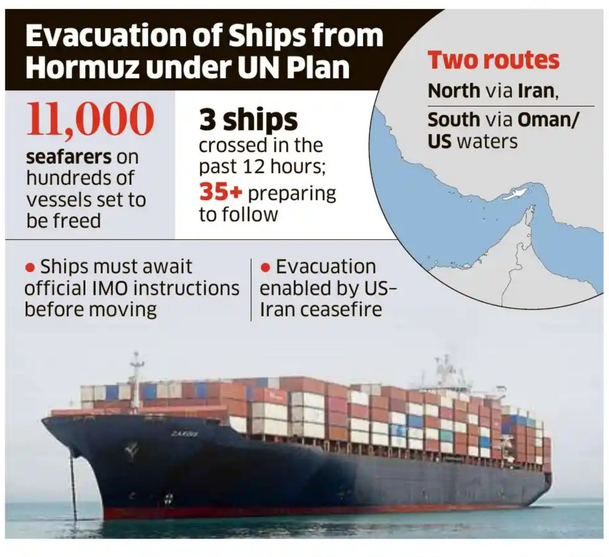
The initiative, which has taken months to conclude, will enable hundreds of ships carrying some 11,000 seafarers stranded in the Gulf to sail through Hormuz, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) said on Tuesday. "Ships have already begun to pass under the plan," an IMO spokesperson said on Wednesday, declining to provide any details of the vessels that had crossed.

At least two dry bulk ships and one cargo ship have sailed through Hormuz under the scheme in the past 12 hours, LSEG ship-tracking data showed on Wednesday. At least 35 other commercial ships, mainly dry bulk, cargo and container vessels, were preparing to sail through the strait, according to LSEG and MarineTraffic ship-tracking data by Reuters.

Those vessels are smaller commercial ships, including five smaller oil tankers, coastal ships and tugs, according to an analysis of the vessels waiting.

Under the scheme, which the IMO said was able to begin after the US and Iran reached a ceasefire framework, vessels will be able to use two tracks to sail out: a northern route via Iranian waters and a southern route via "the Sultanate of Oman/US-coordinated waters".

"Vessels should wait for instructions before proceeding," the IMO said in a note on the scheme issued on Wednesday. "Crowding the waiting area will only result in the need to pause further notifications for the safety of navigation."


Evacuation of Ships from Hormuz under UN Plan
11,000
seafarers on hundreds of vessels set to be freed
3 ships
crossed in the past 12 hours;
35+ preparing to follow
Two routes
North via Iran,
South via Oman/ US waters
Ships must await official IMO instructions before moving
Evacuation enabled by US-Iran ceasefire

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"Iran has informed the US that... There are 'no tolls, no insurance costs, & no other charges of any kind being sought or received by Iran on ships traveling the Strait of Hormuz.

US Senate passes rare war powers rebuke over Iran conflict

The US Senate has, for the first time, approved a war powers resolution seeking to block military action against Iran, as lawmakers warily watch President Donald Trump's efforts to resolve a conflict that the administration launched on its own and now needs Congress to fund, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

It was the 10th time the Senate had tried to stop the war, and the outcome, on a vote of 50-48 on Tuesday, marked a stunning turnaround from past efforts.While the resolution is largely symbolic and does not carry the full force of law, it reflects growing concern among a number of Republican lawmakers in both the House and Senate over both the war and the deal Trump struck with Iran to end it.

India retains advisory against non-essential travel to Iran

DUBAI, PTI: India on Wednesday advised its citizens to continue avoiding all non-essential travel to Iran until further notice, despite recent improvements in the security situation.

The Indian Embassy in Tehran said it has been closely monitoring the prevailing security situation in Iran and was issuing a revised advisory in light of recent positive developments and improvements in the overall situation. "Notwithstanding the recent improvements, Indian nationals are advised to continue to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran until further notice," the mission said in its advisory, a copy of which was posted on social media.

The mission further advised Indians residing in Iran, as well as those who may be required to travel to the country for unavoidable reasons, to exercise a high degree of caution and remain vigilant at all times.

IAEA chief says Iran inspections will take place

TOKYO, AFP: The head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday that inspections at Iranian atomic sites were "going to happen", but did not offer a specific timeline.

His comments came after Tehran and Washington signed a preliminary deal aimed at ending the West Asia war, which cited the involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the next steps concerning Tehran's programme.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi told reporters during a visit to Japan that the agreement "explicitly" states that "nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regard to nuclear material facilities will be supervised by the IAEA". "Obviously, to do that, we will have to inspect," Grossi said.

The dates and locations of any inspections are currently under discussion.

An Iranian diplomat, while commenting on Grossi's statement, said inspections of nuclear sites would only be possible after a final US-Iran agreement.

Singapore to help abandoned workers from India, B'desh

SINGAPORE, PTI

Around 400 migrant workers, mostly from India and Bangladesh, who have not been paid wages by their employers for three to four months, will receive SGD 200 in cash and vouchers from the Singapore government, it was announced on Wednesday.

National Trade Union Congress' (NTUC) Secretary-General and labour chief Ng Chee Meng said the country's largest labour movement and the NGO Migrant Workers' Centre (MWC) will provide each worker with SGD 100 in cash and SGD 100 in FairPrice supermarket vouchers to help meet daily expenses.

The NTUC has also identified 150 construction job vacancies from around 40 employers over the past two days, Ng added.

Speaking to the media at Tuas View Dormitory, where most of the workers are currently housed, Ng said the labour movement has also discussed with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) on recovering the workers' salaries.

"The practice of abandoning the workers and not paying salaries is not something that NTUC will stand without acting upon," Channel News Asia quoted Ng as saying.

Earlier on Monday, more than 100 migrant workers employed by KPA Engineering and its related firm SK Industries turned up at MOM's services centre seeking help, having gone unpaid for months.

Alibaba sues US Defence Dept

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: Chinese tech giant Alibaba has sued the US Department of Defence, demanding that it be removed from its list of 'Chinese military firms' that prohibits them from landing US defence contracts.

In a petition before the San Jose division of the US District Court, Alibaba, which is publicly traded on the NYSE, said the designation, announced on June 8, has "no basis in fact or law" and that the Pentagon failed to reach its conclusion through any fair process.

Ukraine strikes key Crimea infrastructure targets

KYIV, AP/PTI: Ukraine said its forces struck a railway bridge, a power plant and other key infrastructure targets in Crimea as Kyiv's military seeks to isolate the vital Russian-held peninsula in the latest stage of the four-year-old war.

The drone attacks on Tuesday added to the woes on the Black Sea peninsula, where Russian authorities have had to suspend gasoline sales to civilians as Ukraine has intensified its recent campaign to disrupt supply lines and the electrical grid at the height of the summer tourist season. The peninsula was seized by force and illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Mykhailo Fedorov said last week that his forces are "isolating Crimea with drones".

"It looks like, in the near future, Crimea will become an island," Fedorov said in an interview.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had been warned that Ukraine aimed to disrupt energy supplies and Russia's tourism industry.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education)
Office, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

No: SAD(ED)/P.R./355/2026-27 Date: 24.06.2026

Notification for Short Term Tender

Subject : Short-Term KPP Portal Tender Notification for the purchase of Shoes and Socks required by Kindergarten to Pre-University Colleges of North City Corporation for the year 2026-27.

Reference: Approval from Hon'ble Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation Dated : 08-05-2026.

With reference to the above subject, the necessary Shoes & Socks required by the students studying in 09-Kindergartens, 02-Primary Schools, 06-High Schools and 06-Pre University Colleges of Bengaluru North City Corporation to be purchased from established vendors / suppliers and distributed during the academic year 2026-27. Short Term Tenders are invited at the present market rates for the following.

Details of Materials to be purchased	Details of Centers to be supplied	Number of Students Studying	Necessary Materials No.
Shoes and Socks	From Kindergarten to Pre University Colleges	5129	For each & Every Student

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education), BNCC.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayangara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No.: EE/TE&M Cell/BSCC/TEND/09/2026-27/Corr-1 Date: 24.06.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No.: EE/BSCC/TE&MC/TEND/09/2026-27, Dated: 18.06.2026

For the tender notification EE/BSCC/TE&MC/TEND/09/2026-27, Dated: 18.06.2026 due to technical reasons revised timelines as below has been issued vide ref(1). These following revised dates have been made.

Sl. No.	As per document	To be read as
1	Availability of tender document in KPP portal: 22.06.2026 onwards.	**Availability of tender document in KPP portal: 29.06.2026 onwards**
2	Date & time of pre-bid meeting: 29.06.2026 at 3:00 p.m.	**Date & time of pre-bid meeting: 06.07.2026 at 3:00 p.m.**
3	Last date & time for queries: 29.06.2026, 4:00 p.m.	**Last date & time for queries: 06.07.2026, 4:00 p.m.**
4	Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 07.07.2026 at 4:00 p.m.	**Last date & time for receipt of tenders: 15.07.2026 at 4:00 p.m.**
5	Opening of Technical bid: 08.07.2026 at 4:30 p.m.	**Opening of Technical bid: 16.07.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**
6	Opening of Financial bid (if possible): After approval of Technical Evaluation.	**Opening of Financial bid (if possible): After approval of Technical Evaluation.**

The remaining terms and conditions of the tender remain unaltered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, Bengaluru South City Corporation

Appeals court backs Trump's fast-track deportations

Indian-origin attorney in US to be fined over false asylum claims

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

A federal appeals court on Tuesday allowed the Trump administration to resume carrying out speedy deportations of undocumented migrants throughout the United States, not just near the border.

A divided three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit overturned a lower court decision that had temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's expanded use of expedited removal. The ruling was a significant victory for the Republican administration, which views the expansion of expedited removal as a key tool in carrying out its mass deportation policy.

Expedited removal—quick deportation without an opportunity to appear before a judge—had previously been applied to migrants arriving by sea or those caught at or near the border shortly after crossing.

In January, Trump expanded its use to undocumented migrants across the US. Immigration agents began taking migrants into custody at courthouses where they had appeared for immigration proceedings and then removing them from the country within days. "The Trump administration's push for fast-track deportations will subject people to an unfair and error-prone system," Anand Balakrishnan, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, said.

Meanwhile, an Indian-origin attorney will be fined more than $250,000 by federal authorities for filing fraudulent documents and false asylum claims on behalf of Indians. Vinod Doddamani operates a nationwide practice in which he primarily represents Indian nationals and files asylum applications on their behalf before immigration courts.

Brad Lander, candidate for New York's 10th Congressional District, speaks to Immigration Customs Enforcement officers waiting to make detainments at immigration court in Manhattan, New York City, on Wednesday. REUTERS

European heat wave triggers health warnings

LONDON, AP/PTI: People across large parts of the UK are being warned that high temperatures will present a risk to life on Wednesday as a "heat dome" over Western Europe brings extreme conditions to the continent.

The "red heat health" alert for much of central and southern England, as well as Wales, is only the second such warning ever issued by UK authorities. The first was in July 2022, when temperatures exceeded 40 degrees C. Authorities in France, Italy and Spain have also issued warnings about the risks posed by extreme heat.

The UK is braced for its highest-ever June temperatures, with the Met Office forecasting a high of 38 degrees C in southern England. Temperatures reached 34.6 degrees C on Tuesday in Wisley. "Red warnings are reserved for the most severe events and we're expecting severe and significant impacts from this heat wave, with health impacts likely for many, even beyond those who are normally more vulnerable to the heat," said Mark Sidaway, deputy chief forecaster at the UK Met Office.

ENDING DOMINANCE

Chinese supercomputer overtakes US rivals

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

A supercomputer in China has overtaken its US counterparts as the world's most powerful, marking the first time since 2017 that a Chinese machine has topped a list often viewed as a measure of a nation's technological prowess.

The LineShine computer in Shenzhen, China, displaced the top-ranked US computer El Capitan in the latest version of the TOP500 ranking announced on Tuesday. It was the Chinese computer's debut on the list. Scientists behind the TOP500 project said the LineShine computer at China's National Supercomputing Centre achieved 2.198 exaflops, meaning it can perform more than 2 quintillion calculations per second.

El Capitan, at the US government's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, now ranks second, ahead of two other US supercomputers at national laboratories in Tennessee and Illinois. Germany's Jupiter supercomputer has dropped to fifth place. The five are the only publicly verified exascale computers in the world.

Standing out

LineShine differs from other high-performance computers by running entirely on conventional computer chips, or CPUs, instead of the graphics processors, or GPUs, commonly used for artificial intelligence. It relies on approximately 42.2 megawatts of electricity to operate, according to TOP500.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer heads to the House of Commons, following his announcement of the timeline for his resignation, in London, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Nirav Modi must pay over $11m to Bank of India: UK court

▸ Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi is liable to pay Bank of India more than $11.5 million, including accruing interest on a personal loan guarantee, the High Court in London has ruled, PTI reports from London.

The 55-year-old jeweller, who remains in prison while fighting extradition to India in a separate $2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, had disputed the enforceability of the personal guarantee related to a loan to Dubai-incorporated firm Firestar Diamond FZE, which is associated with him. In a judgment handed down at the London Circuit Commercial Court on Tuesday, Justice Simon Tinkler found in favour of Bank of India after a lengthy legal process complicated by delays in the transfer of paperwork within the UK prison service. "Mr Modi was validly served with the October 2025 Modi Demand. That was a valid demand for a liability to the Bank under the Personal Guarantee," Justice Tinkler ruled. "Mr Modi is therefore liable under the Personal Guarantee to the Bank for the principal amount due of $4,105,189.34," he said.

France confirms first Ebola case

▸ A case of Ebola virus has been confirmed in France in a patient returning from Congo, the French Ministry of Health said on Wednesday, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

The individual, who has not been identified, returned from a humanitarian mission in one of the virus transmission zones in Congo and was admitted to a specialised facility in France. The patient is in a stable condition, the ministry said. The Congolese health ministry said on Wednesday that there are 1,094 confirmed cases of Ebola, including 277 confirmed deaths. The outbreak, caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus, currently has no approved vaccine or treatment. Officials acknowledged that the actual number of cases could be higher.

A protester takes part in '#EndJewHatred' rally outside Poetica Coffee, in Brooklyn, New York, on Wednesday. REUTERS

B'desh PM begins China visit

▸ Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Wednesday arrived in Beijing, where he will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on strengthening ties and charting the future course of relations between the two countries, PTI reports from Beijing.

Rahman arrived in the Chinese city of Dalian from Kuala Lumpur on Monday. In the coastal city, he attended the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, organised by the World Economic Forum, which focused on translating technological advances into economic progress and employment opportunities. Rahman travelled by high-speed train from Dalian to Beijing on Wednesday, where he is scheduled to meet Xi, Premier Li Qiang and other officials.

Viking textile hub unearthed

▸ Archaeologists have discovered a huge Viking Age textile production site in Denmark that dates back more than 1,000 years and underlines the sophistication of Viking society. AP/PTI reports from Soften (Denmark).

Experts from the Moesgaard Museum said this week that the sprawling 100,000-square-metre (more than 1 million-square-foot) site features an area for processing flax as well as more than 80 pit houses — semi-submerged huts that were used as workshops and dwellings in Viking times. It is located in Soften, 10 km north of Denmark's second-largest city, Aarhus, on the Jutland peninsula. The site dates back to the late Iron Age and early Viking Age, between AD 600 and 950.

Actress Zendaya poses on the red carpet as she arrives to promote the film "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" in Rome on Wednesday. AFP

Turning the page on Kannada publishing

As reader tastes evolve and publishing pressures mount, Karnataka's literary world is reimagining how Kannada books are written, sold and read, writes Ashwin B M

Writing is thriving in Karnataka. More manuscripts are arriving at publishing houses than ever before, aspiring authors are entering the literary scene in unprecedented numbers and nearly 6,000 Kannada titles are published every year.

Yet beneath this creative surge lies a growing unease. Changing reader preferences, soaring production costs and the rapid digital shift are reshaping the world of Kannada publishing, making it harder than ever to sell books and sustain the literary ecosystem.

For decades, Kannada literature was anchored in a rich tradition of poetry and social realism. Today, the pendulum has swung toward crisp, accessible prose. Modern readers are showing a growing appetite for fast-paced genres such as crime thrillers, suspense and science fictions, personality development and financial management.

"New-generation authors are mainly coming up with crime stories, thrillers and money management-related books," says R Doddegowda, General Manager of Sapna Book House. According to him, even vintage crime fiction is seeing a resurgence.

At the same time, publishers say non-fiction with a strong ideological or historical focus is finding eager readers. Works centred on ideological thought and authentic biographies by writers from historically marginalised communities are gaining traction.

Traditional literary forms, however, are feeling the strain. Demand for poetry collections and plays has declined sharply.

Readers browse Kannada books at a book exhibition in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Book lovers explore Kannada titles at a bookstore. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Modern-day readers

Traditionally, teachers, especially humanities academicians, were the primary custodians of the reading habit, but publishers now see that trend reversing, with a growing number of readers emerging from outside academia. Doctors, engineers, lawyers, corporate employees and bank managers are increasingly turning to Kannada literature for intellectual engagement and personal reflection.

"I have written 13 biographies, including those of Jyotirao Phule, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Ambedkar and Savitribai Phule. Why should we bring them to light today? Because we have readers right in front of our eyes. Whatever ideas have been sidelined but need prominence, we must present them to the next generation," says writer H S Anupama.

Digital formats

While most readers still prefer the tactile experience of printed books, digital formats have expanded access to Kannada literature. Drawing on his five to six years of experience with MyLang books, Vasanth Shetty says readers in smaller towns who lack easy access to bookstores have benefited greatly from e-books and audiobook.

"Occasional readers as well as those educated in English-medium schools who may not have grown up reading Kannada, often prefer audio content," he adds.

According to Shetty, MyLang's audiobooks of authors such as Poornachandra Tejaswi resonated most strongly with urban audiences, demonstrating how audio content can help people without a traditional reading habit engage with Kannada literature.

Advances in logistics have also transformed distribution of Kannada books. Since the pandemic, social media marketing and UPI-based payment systems have decentralised the book market.

However, Shetty notes that Kannada still lacks a wide variety of digital content. The perception that readers are unwilling to pay for books discourages experimentation and limits the number of writers exploring new genres.

Publishers' concerns

Innovation has done little to ease the industry's financial pressures. Publishers cite rising production costs as one of their biggest concerns. The burden has been compounded by the 18% GST levied on paper and royalties, significantly increasing the cost of publishing.

Compared with publishing in other south Indian languages, Kannada publishing faces a significant scale disadvantage. A typical first-edition print run for a Kannada book ranges between 500 and 1,000 copies, while publishers in Tamil and Malayalam often print between 5,000 and 10,000 copies in their first editions.

"They print a minimum of 5,000 copies in their first run and easily go up to 25,000 copies. We struggle to sell even 1,000 copies of exceptional titles. That shows our grassroots readership base still needs significant cultivation," says U Premachandra of Navakarnataka Publications.

Premachandra also points to stronger institutional support elsewhere.

"Look at Kerala or Tamil Nadu. Their governments actively organise district-level book exhibitions to ensure literature reaches the public. Here, we barely have anything even at the state level."

Independent efforts

Despite these challenges, a new generation of independent micro-publishers is reshaping the Kannada literary landscape.

Publishing houses such as Aharnishi Prakashana in Shivamogga and Ananya Prakashana in Dharwad have earned respect for their meticulous curation, aesthetic production quality and commitment to meaningful content.

"The number of readers may be fluctuating, but the number of writers is undeniably increasing," says Akshata Humchadakatte of Aharnishi Prakashana.

For micro-publishers, however, distribution is a major challenge. While large networks can leverage extensive logistics systems, smaller publishers often struggle to survive. Government library schemes, which are meant to buffer the industry, frequently suffer from implementation loopholes, leaving smaller publishing houses to shoulder the physical and financial burdens of marketing single-handedly.

Publishers and writers agree that the future of Kannada publishing lies not in dependence on state patronage but in deeper engagement with communities.

By organising large-scale exhibitions, holding independent book fairs in schools and corporate campuses, and producing high-quality children's literature, publishers and industry stakeholders are attempting to anchor the language in the next generation.

"Writing is an act of connecting across time with visible and invisible readers," says T S Goravara of Akshara Sangaatha. "As long as publishers continue to understand the pulse of readers and deliver original, contemporary and deeply human content, the cycle will endure. The readers are out there; the challenge lies in building bridges to reach them."

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to:
spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

The travelling seed keeper

D M Kurke Prashanth writes about a truck driver who carries indigenous seeds across villages, helping keep backyard gardens alive

A small bag sits beside Manjunath's seat whenever he drives his truck. The bag is filled with seeds of indigenous varieties of vegetables such as black and white ridge gourd, bottle gourd, sword beans and wild beans.

Many of these traditional vegetables, once common in backyard gardens across rural Karnataka, are gradually disappearing. Concerned by this loss, 44-year-old Manjunath, a truck and auto-rickshaw driver from S M Gollahalli village in Doddaballapur taluk, has taken it upon himself to carry these seeds from one village to another, ensuring they continue to survive and spread. Wherever he travels, he carries the seeds with him, hoping they will take root in fields and gardens far away.

In the process, sword bean seeds collected from a remote village in Maharashtra and bottle gourd varieties sourced from Bihar have found their way into backyard gardens and fields in Karnataka. Some seeds come through chance encounters with farmers during his travels, while others are shared through an expanding network of seed savers.

Over the last four years, he has distributed rare seeds to over 50 farmers across Karnataka. He keeps records of every exchange, noting who received the seeds and where they came from. He remembers the villages and fields where the seeds he shared are now growing. "Manjunath shared seeds of a native runner bean variety with us. We cultivated them and later returned more seeds to him. It made us happy, and he was equally delighted," says Veena Paramesh of Hullekere village in Hassan district.

As he drives through towns and villages delivering goods, Manjunath uses stops at tea stalls and petty shops during loading and unloading to connect with farmers. What begins as a casual conversation often ends with an exchange of native seeds.

The inspiration for this mission came from L Narayan Reddy of Doddaballapur, a pioneering organic farmer remembered for his work. Years ago, Manjunath attended one of his lectures and one message stayed with him: "The foundation of health lies in our food." The significance of those words became clearer when his wife began facing health issues. Gradually, he developed a deeper interest in organic farming and nutritious vegetables grown in household gardens. He resolved to collect and share seeds of traditional vegetable varieties so that more people could cultivate them. Since then, he has exchanged seeds with farmers in Hassan, Tumakuru, Mandya, Bengaluru Rural and several other districts.

To keep seed conservers and growers connected, he created a WhatsApp group named Arogyada Arivu Jagruti Abhiyana Karnataka, where members share photographs, cultivation experiences and seed-saving practices.

Every seed has a story

Every seed in Manjunath's collection carries a story of travel and exchange. "I gave aerial yam tubers to Paramesh in Hassan district. They cultivated them and returned more tubers. I then shared them with friends in Khane Hosahalli in Doddaballapur taluk, where they harvested nearly 150

kilograms. From there, the crop has now reached farmers in Yadgir district," says Manjunath.

Manjunath owns one-and-a-half acres of rain-fed farmland. A few years ago, he cultivated several indigenous vegetable varieties there and even maintained a small seed bank at home. However, life took a difficult turn when his wife fell ill, forcing him to put some of those plans on hold. "One day, I want to grow these rare vegetables again on my own land and conserve even more seeds," he says.

"Manjunath is helping revive the fading backyard gardening culture," says Lokesh of S M Gollahalli, adding that many farmers appreciate Manjunath's efforts.

Looking ahead, Manjunath hopes to bring together seed conservers at the hobli and village levels through local platforms where they can exchange seeds, experiences and knowledge.

As his truck heads towards yet another village, the little bag remains firmly by his side, carrying not just seeds, but stories, memories and the possibility of keeping food cultures alive.

Manjunath can be contacted on 99724 30177.

Manjunath of S M Gollahalli with the bag of indigenous vegetable seeds he carries on his travels.

The unfinished story of a temple restoration

Celebrated for its intricate architecture, the Nuggehalli temple is now at the centre of a debate over a prolonged conservation project, writes Amullya Shivashankar

In the quiet village of Nuggehalli in Hassan district, where centuries-old stone walls still bear the chiselled imprint of Hoysala craftsmanship, the Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple stands caught between preservation and loss.

Built in 1246 CE by Bommanna Dandanayaka, a commander under Hoysala king Vira Someshwara, the temple is celebrated for its intricate sculptures, richly ornamented walls and exquisite artisanship.

The temple is a *trikutachala* structure, characteristic of Hoysala architecture, with shrines dedicated to Keshava, Narasimha and Gopala. A *trikutachala* is a three-shrine temple design, common in South Indian architecture, where three sanctums are connected to a central hall.

About 250 metres to the northeast stands the Sadashiva Temple, another Hoysala monument consecrated in 1249 CE. Both the temples have been protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and managed under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act.

For centuries, the temples withstood the ravages of time. However, after rainwater seepage was detected in the sanctum of the Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple a few years ago, conservation work to safeguard the nationally protected monument was planned at a cost of Rs 1.1 crore.

The Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple at Nuggehalli in Hassan district as seen from the side of sanctum dedicated to Keshava, the main deity.

Vasuki Nagendra, a devotee, contributed around Rs 1 crore towards restoring the temple while the ASI, in collaboration with the National Culture Fund (NCF), initiated the restoration works under a public-private partnership model.

Restoration work to address the temple's structural issues began in February 2023 and was completed in March 2024 after nearly a year of conservation efforts. The restoration project, however, sparked concern among villagers, heritage enthusiasts and experts, who said that certain interventions may have compromised aspects of the temple's original character.

Despite the substantial expenditure and restoration efforts, water leakage and seepage continued to persist. Though a second round of repairs was undertaken, the problems remained unresolved. Even today, several components of the project remain unfinished. Restoration of the temple kitchen, work on the *mantapas*, lighting and compound wall has yet to be completed.

"We did not anticipate the restoration work would drag on for so long," said Nagarathnamma N, mother of the donor. "Many problems are yet to be fixed in the temple. We feel adequate expertise is not being utilised in the restoration process."

Narayan Bhargav, a software developer and native of Nuggehalli, believes that the persistent leaks and seepage, despite repeated rounds of restoration work, expose shortcomings in the ASI's approach to conserving ancient temples.

Bhargav added that villagers repeatedly approached the ASI seeking answers for the poor quality of work and the delay in the project completion. "We wrote several letters and emails to both the Bengaluru Circle office of the ASI and its headquarters in New Delhi. The letters were signed by many villagers. However, we did not receive any response to our representations," he said.

Bhagwan N, another villager, said the restoration project was originally expected to be completed within a year. "It has now been more than three years and the ASI is still carrying out restoration work," he said.

Conservation concerns

Heritage experts say the episode raises broader questions about conservation practices in the country.

Prof Srikumar M Menon, an architect specialising in ancient architecture, cited several examples of ASI restoration projects and said the agency had successfully restored a number of Hoysala temples affected by water seepage.

However, he raised concerns about the materials used in some of the restoration works undertaken by various archaeological expert agencies. "In some cases, they have completely dismantled the structure apart and put it back together. Concrete has been used instead of traditional mud-based materials. This means it may be impossible to take up any further restoration work if needed in the future," he said.

Prof Menon also called for the creation of a national panel of conservation experts to assist the ASI in the restoration of ancient monuments.

ASI officials said the delays in the restoration of the Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple were due to a technical issue rather than a lack of expertise.

"We only recently discovered that there are two levels of roofing. Earlier, repairs were focused on the upper roof. Now that we have identified the root cause, corrective work is under way and should be completed within the next few days," an official said.

The officials added that the remaining works, including public amenities, landscaping and the temple kitchen, would also be completed alongside the ongoing repairs.

Biz Bytes

Vedanta forays into real estate sector

NEW DELHI, PTI: Vedanta Ltd on Wednesday said it has incorporated a wholly-owned company Vedanta Property Platforms Ltd (VPPL) to foray into the real estate sector.

The move is aimed at monetising surplus land and non-core property assets and creating a dedicated structure for potential joint ventures and asset-light initiatives to fund expansion in its core metals and energy businesses.

Vedanta has subscribed to 100% of the equity share capital of the company through a cash consideration of Rs 1 lakh, making VPPL a wholly-owned arm.

Infosys collaborates with Sentara

BENGALURU, DHNS: Infosys on Wednesday announced a collaboration with Sentara, a not-for-profit healthcare organisation, to support AI-driven transformation.

Under the partnership, Infosys will deploy Infosys Topaz Fabric, its agentic services suite that integrates infrastructure, AI models, data and workflows to enable AI strategy, implementation and digital transformation.

Jamisson Fowler, SVP and Chief Digital Officer, Sentara, said, "As we continue to advance our digital strategy, working with Infosys enables us to take a thoughtful and scalable approach to AI adoption across the enterprise."

Weak monsoon, energy stress to drag GDP growth to 6.6%: S&P

Says oil prices may return to pre-crisis levels in early 2028

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's economic growth is likely to fall to 6.6% in the current financial year, from 7.7% recorded in the previous year, dragged by sub-par monsoon, energy stress and slowing global growth, rating agency S&P Global said on Wednesday.

In a report titled "Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q3 2026: AI-Exposed Markets to Outperform", the rating agency noted that "there is a high degree of unpredictability around the duration and scale of the Middle East war and its potential effect on commodity prices, supply chains, economies, and credit conditions".

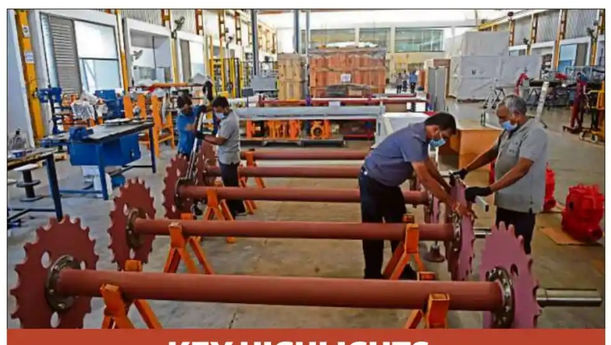
The rating agency has also lowered its projections on other major economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

"The erosion of purchasing power, lower capex investment and negative wealth effects would weigh on growth. GDP growth would be 1.0-1.3 ppts lower in China, India and Japan in the third quarter of 2026, with year-average growth 0.5-0.6 ppts lower," it said.

S&P Global's projection on India's GDP growth is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's latest estimate of 6.6%.

According to S&P Global, India's GDP growth is likely to accelerate to 7.2% in FY2027-28, and 7% and 6.8% in the two subsequent years, respectively.

On inflation, S&P Global said India's consumer price index-based retail inflation would rise to 5.1% in the current financial year, from 2.1% recorded in the previous year. The retail inflation is projected to remain at 4.7%, 4.3%, and 4.2% in FY28, FY29 and FY30, respectively.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

India's FY27 GDP growth seen at 6.6%, down from 7.7% in FY26

- Growth outlook hit by weak monsoon, energy stress and slowing global economy
- Retail inflation projected to rise to 5.1% in FY27 from 2.1% last fiscal
- S&P Global expects RBI policy rate hike in second half of FY27

India's growth forecast: 7.2% (FY28), 7.0% (FY29), 6.8% (FY30)

"We project consumer inflation will rise to 5.1% this fiscal, as manufacturers pass on higher energy costs to consumers, alongside recent increases in administered prices such as for petrol, diesel, and cooking gas," it said.

"We expect a policy rate hike in the second half of this fiscal. Also, with the current account deficit on the rise and the rupee weakening, the authorities took measures to encourage foreign capital inflows. These measures have strengthened the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar somewhat," S&P Global added.

For its forecasts, S&P Global assumes that the disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz would gradually ease in the second half of the year.

"We expect global oil prices to remain elevated in the coming months. They should ease gradually thereafter, returning to pre-crisis levels in early 2028," it said.

On foreign trade, S&P Global noted that in most of the economies where the economic importance of tech manufacturing is relatively high, the favorable impact of the tech export boom outweighs that of the unfavorable energy shock.

The countries in Asia-Pacific, which are expected to benefit from the tech export boom, include Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Japan.

Non-tech exports are likely to remain sluggish. "They are likely to be affected by slower global growth, erosion of purchasing power in partner countries via higher energy prices, and renewed US trade tariff action," it said.

Amazon CEO visits India; q-commerce battle intensifies

Company to scale up micro-fulfilment centre network

BENGALURU, DHNS

The quick commerce battle is heating up in India as all major e-commerce players focus on faster deliveries. Amazon CEO Andy Jassy is in India, where he visited the micro-fulfilment centre of Amazon Now, the company's ultra-fast delivery service. Amazon plans to extend the service to over 300 cities across the country.

On Wednesday, Amazon's rival, Flipkart, too announced that its quick commerce offering, Minutes, has scaled to 1,000 micro-fulfilment centres across 130 cities and 8,000 pincodes. This was achieved in under two years since its launch in August 2024.

> It's (Amazon Now) our fastest-growing ecommerce business unit in India, and we're expanding to 300+ cities as part of our plan to build the country's largest delivery-in-minutes network. And what we've learned building it here is now helping us scale it across the US and around the world.
>
> **ANDY JASSY,** CEO, Amazon

AI transformation

Jassy spent time at the centre in Mumbai, and also met business leaders to discuss AI and innovation. The CEO said AI is the most transformational technology he has seen in his lifetime and that India will be where some of its most-important applications are built. He pointed to the country's deep engineering talent base and pace of digital adoption as reasons for India being positioned not just as a consumer of AI, but as a builder and innovator.

The e-commerce giant said orders on Amazon Now have doubled every quarter since launch. Amazon will scale up its specialised fulfilment infrastructure to offer the largest selection of products to customers across the country. Amazon Now is already available to over 50 million customers in over 15 metro and non-metro cities, including Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Amritsar, and Kochi.

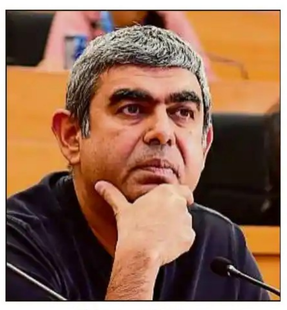
Amazon plans to scale up its network of micro-fulfilment centres and urban fulfilment centres to stock an expanded selection of daily essentials.

Meanwhile, Flipkart said orders on its platform have grown 5X since the network expansion. It attributed the growth to two forces shaping the next phase of quick commerce in India: Gen Z consumers adopting quick commerce as a high-frequency shopping habit, and Bharat markets, where Tier-2 and 3 cities have recorded 42X growth compared to last year, as quick commerce transitions from an urban convenience into a mainstream retail channel across the country.

Both Flipkart and Amazon are competing with established players, such as Zepto, Blinkit, and Instamart, to capture a larger share of the quick commerce market.

Sikka launches AI startup Hang Ten Systems; gets $32 mn funding

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Infosys CEO and Executive Board Member at SAP Vishal Sikka has launched AI startup Hang Ten Systems. The startup has secured $32 million funding in a round led by Mayfield with a strategic investment from Aramco Ventures and participation from a group of angel investors.



Vishal Sikka

Hang Ten is working with marquee customers across several industries, including Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy and Fresenius on AI-native project delivery.

"AI is upon us all like a massive new wave. And I learned a long time ago that when there are big waves around, it is time to surf. Not just to surf, but to hang ten — to master the wave so well that you can walk all the way to the front of the board and hang your ten toes off the front," he said," Sikka said in a post on X.

UP gets over Rs 50,000 crore investment proposals in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday held a series of events in Bengaluru as part of his government's roadshow to invite investments into the state, which he claims is among the top 3 destinations in the country for investments. Accordingly, UP secured investment proposals worth over Rs 50,000 crore during the Uttar Pradesh Global Growth Dialogue 2026 in the Karnataka capital.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath with Deepak Kumar, Infrastructure and Industry Development Commissioner of the state, at Uttar Pradesh Global Growth Dialogue 2026 held in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO B K JANARDHAN

Stating that UP is no longer a 'Bimaru' state, Adityanath stated that the state possesses all the ingredients from talented STEM graduates to infrastructure facilities, and industry-friendly policies required by the industries to invest in the state.

During the multiple interactions with investors from the IT, technology, startup, and GCC companies during the day, the UP chief minister highlighted the achievements of his government over the past nine years and explained the policy measures taken to make the state attractive for investment.

He stressed on the fact that UP is now a revenue-surplus state and has achieved three times growth in per capita income of the people in the last nine years. Adityanath said the state is now a favoured destination for investment because of its infrastructure development. All the facilities required by the industries are now available in the state, he said.

Uttar Pradesh now has five international airports, 11 domestic airports, 16,000 km of railway network, 4 lakh km of road network, a dedicated freight corridor, India's first inland waterway, 27 industrial logistics parks, and 75,000 acres of land bank connected to expressways.

"The state, today, is known for 3S model — safety, stability, and steel — the three main ingredients required for the industries to invest. The double-engine government over the past nine years has enabled Uttar Pradesh to rise from the bottom three position to become one of the top three states in the country for economic development," Adityanath said.

He invited the investment partners into every sector and realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047 through Uttar Pradesh.

With 36 sector-specific policies, UP has not only created policy support for each sector, but also developed a comprehensive land bank of 75,000 acres, Adityanath said. Further, a grand industrial city is being developed in the form of Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA).

GCC, logistics push

As part of roundtable discussions, the investment proposals of more than Rs 50,000 crore that UP received, were from over 15 companies, which signed MoUs with the state government. These investments are expected to create new opportunities in industrial development, Global Capability Centers (GCCs), electronics manufacturing, logistics, and other key sectors.

The largest investment commitments came in the industrial and business park segment. Horizon (Blackstone) proposed an investment of Rs 10,000 crore, Embassy Rs 5,000 crore, Raheja Mindspace REIT Rs 5,000 crore, Prestige Rs 15,000 crore, and Sattva Developers Rs 4,000 crore. Shriram Properties also signed an MoU to develop private industrial and business parks in UP.

Noel Tata to retire as Trent chair

NEW DELHI, PTI: Noel Tata has said Trent's 74th AGM will be his last as Chairman, concluding a historic tenure where he built the Tata retail firm from a single storefront in Bengaluru into a leading Indian fashion and lifestyle giant.

Noel Tata

"As you might be aware, this will be my last Annual General Meeting as Chairman," Noel Tata (69) told shareholders on Tuesday, while addressing the AGM of the company, which operates fast fashion retail stores, such as Westside and Zudio.

Noel Tata, who is also Chairman of Tata Trusts, the largest shareholder of Tata Sons, will turn 70 in November this year.

The Companies Act 2013 mandates that any Managing Director or Whole-Time Director cannot be appointed or continue employment if they are 70 years of age or older.

However, as an exception, they can be appointed only with shareholder approval through a special resolution, or with Central Government approval if only an ordinary resolution is passed.

Thanking shareholders, employees and partners for their support, Tata said the company has evolved into a strong and resilient retail platform with a clear focus on creating long-term value.

Under his Chairmanship, Trent expanded into 79 new cities and added 289 stores, taking its overall portfolio to 1,286 stores across 321 cities, serving more than 120 million customers in FY26.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHALKI

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪುಸಭಾ /ಇಎನ್‌ಜಿ/ಅಮೃತ್–2/ಸಿಆರ್– /2026–27 Date: 24–06–2026

:: TENDER NOTIFCATION ::

1) Name of work Indent no: 58101/Call-2 & 57935/Call-2, 2) Estimated cost As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency/ Consultant As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5) Last date for submission of tender **27-07-2026** ಸಾ: **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 6) Technical bid opening **28-07-2026** ಸಾ: **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 7) Financial bid opening **29-07-2026** ಸಾ: **5.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 8) Address for communication Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328 Phone No: 8892941328 Email : ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com, 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

DIPR/Bidar/72/KSMC&A/2026-27

Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER
TMC BHALKI

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:126, ನವನಗರ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08354– 235042 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08354-235043

ನಂ:ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ.ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/ಪಿಬಿ–03/ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ/2026–27/1063 ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.06.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಕೋಟೆಶನ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ (ಕುಳಗೇರಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್)ದಲ್ಲಿ 10ಟಿಪಿಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ವಸ್ತು ಪುನಸ್ಸಂಪಾದನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು (ಎಮ್.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್)ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ (ಕುಳಗೇರಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್) ದಲ್ಲಿ 10ಟಿಪಿಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ವಸ್ತು ಪುನಸ್ಸಂಪಾದನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು (ಎಮ್.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್) ಘಟಕದ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳ ಖರೀದಿಗೆ ದರ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: 01. ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ್ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ)ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ **ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆರ್‌ಡಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಎಸ್‌ಡಿ/ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಮ್–ಜಿ/ಎಮ್.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್/202/175 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.03.2024**

02. ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಧೀಕೃತ ಜ್ಞಾಪನಾ ಆದೇಶ ಪತ್ರ **ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂಬಾ/ಪಿಡಿ/ಎಸ್‌ಬಿಎಮ್/ಎಮ್‌ಆರ್‌ಎಫ್/ಅ.ಬಿ/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.06.2026**

ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ 2023–24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ (ಕುಳಗೇರಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್)ದಲ್ಲಿ 10ಟಿಪಿಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ವಸ್ತು ಪುನಸ್ಸಂಪಾದನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು (ಎಮ್.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್)ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾದಾಮಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ (ಕುಳಗೇರಿ ಕ್ರಾಸ್) ದಲ್ಲಿ 10ಟಿಪಿಡಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ವಸ್ತು ಪುನಸ್ಸಂಪಾದನಾ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು (ಎಮ್.ಆರ್.ಎಫ್) ಘಟಕದ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳ ದರ ನಿಗದಿಗೆ ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಮೋಹರ ಬಂದ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಕೊಠಡಿ ನಂ.122 **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2026 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಖುದ್ದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಕೋಟೆಶನ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಐಟಂಗಳ ವಿವರ ಇಂತಿದೆ.

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS: (1) PVC Inclined Belt Conveyor (25 ft.). Qty : **1 (2)** PVC Flat Belt Conveyor-(50 ft.). Qty : **1 (3)** PVC Flat Belt Conveyor with Wheels (25 ft.). Qty : **1 (4)** Weighing Scale. Qty : **1 (5)** Vertical Single Box Baler 25 MT. Qty : **1 (6)** Twin Box Baler (Vertical, Chamber Swing Type). Qty : **1 (7)** Pallet Truck — Capacity 2500 kg. Qty : **1 (8)** Semi-Electric Stacker — Capacity 1000 kg. Qty : **1 (9)** Tipper Truck. Qty : **1 (10)** Weighbridge — 60T. Qty : **1 (11)** Diesel Generator — 10 KVA. Qty : **1 (12)** Fire Extinguisher (4.5 Kg& 9 Kg)& Alarm (1Qty). Qty : **1 (13)** Barricade cones, Bumper for Bays, Signage Boards. Qty : **1 (14)** PC & UPS. Qty : **1 (15)** Other Statutory Requirements.

1.ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ :– 04.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2.ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :– 04.07.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ:–

ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಇವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕೆಲಸ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಯಾವುದೇ ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕೋಟೆಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರಣವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ/ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಕೋಟೆಶನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಆಕಾಶ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ (ಇ೦)ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ/107/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2026–27

WEALTHY STATE

Karnataka companies' cumulative value stands at Rs 28.6 lakh crore on Hurun list

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka continues to make a powerful mark in the 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list. The cumulative value of 59 companies on the list, including 20 startups, stands at Rs 28.6 lakh crore — an increase of Rs 6 lakh crore, or 26%, since the list's inception in 2021. This list ranks the 500 most-valuable companies headquartered in India. However, employment has declined 1% to 9.9 lakh since 2021.

Burgundy Private, Axis Bank's private banking business, and Hurun India released the '2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500' on Wednesday, the fifth edition of the list of India's 500 most-valuable companies. Sarvam AI has become the first homegrown LLM developer to enter the list, ranking 353 with a valuation of Rs 14,220 crore. Karnataka's top startups on the list include Zerodha at Rs 86,660 crore, Razorpay at Rs 71,100 crore, and Zepto at Rs 66,360 crore. With a value of Rs 4.8 lakh crore, Infosys is Karnataka's most-valuable company, followed by Titan Company at Rs 3.9 lakh crore, and Wipro at Rs 2.1 lakh crore.

2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 Top 10

Rank	Company	Value 2025 (Rs Cr)	Value Change (%)	Change Over Last 5 Years (%)
1	Reliance Industries	19,36,230	10%	16%
2	HDFC Bank	11,87,800	-17%	31%
3	Bharti Airtel	11,49,650	18%	198%
4	ICICI Bank	9,04,460	-3%	68%
5	Tata Consultancy Services	8,95,080	-44%	-32%
6	Bajaj Finance	5,83,050	37%	35%
7	Larsen & Toubro	5,52,170	2%	121%
8	National Stock Exchange of India	4,86,340	3%	189%
9	Infosys	4,79,270	-40%	-36%
10	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries	4,33,880	0%	119%

Source: Hurun Research Institute, 2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500

The report said companies from the state have added nearly Rs 324 crore in value every day over the past five years. Total revenue of Karnataka companies on the list stood at Rs 6 lakh crore, up 14% or Rs 74,686 crore since 2021.

Anas Rahman Junaid, Founder and Chief Researcher, Hurun India, said companies on the list form the 'backbone' of India's private sector and wield significant economic influence. Collectively, they have a valuation of Rs 323 lakh crore, higher than Canada's GDP, and employ 9 million people. "With Infosys, Titan, and Wipro anchoring the list and startups such as Zerodha, Razorpay, and Zepto rising rapidly, Karnataka's dynamic ecosystem — where a thriving startup culture complements established giants — is driving investment, job creation, and economic expansion at an unmatched scale," he added.

Financial services emerged as the leading sector with 13 companies, followed by software & services and healthcare with eight companies each. The average age of Karnataka companies on the list is 26 years.

Infosys leads with 1,31,470 women employed in the company, followed by Wipro at 86,062, and Aster DM Healthcare at 9,796.

IN BRIEF

Gill at No. 2; Henry joins Bumrah

India captain Shubman Gill rose three spots to move to the second spot in ICC ODI rankings for batters, while New Zealand pacer Matt Henry joined Jasprit Bumrah as the world's top ranked bowler in Test cricket on Wednesday, reports PTI from Dubai.

Gill is now behind New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell by only 24 rating points. Virat Kohli slipped to the third position after missing the Afghanistan series due to a hamstring injury while Rohit Sharma remained at the fourth position.

Sandeep is Mumbai mentor

Former India player Sandeep Patil was on Wednesday appointed as the mentor of Mumbai teams across all levels by the Mumbai Cricket Association, reports PTI from Mumbai.

Patil will work on player development, tactical education as well as talent identification in his latest appointment.

Anand gets SJFI medal

Five-time world chess champion Viswanathan Anand was on Wednesday conferred the Sports Journalists' Federation of India medal at a function organised in association with the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association, reports PTI from Chennai.

Opus One wins the Future Event

MYSURU RESULTS

Suraj Shaw-trained Opus One, to be ridden by N Arind Kumar, won the SV Subramaniam Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races on Wednesday.

1. The Heggadaddevanakote Plate - 1200M: Pilot Officer (B Nikhil) 1, Sir Bender (Koshi Kumar) 2, The Killer (A Mhatre) 3, Tejash (Umesh) 4. WB: 2-1/4, 4-1/2, 3-1/4. T: 1:14.51. TB: Saddam Iqbal. Fav: Pilot Officer.

2. The Alberetto Plate - 1600M: Gimme (Anil Baandal) 1, Alluring Beauty (Koshi Kumar) 2, Miracle Honey (Ayaz Khan) 3, Brocston (Siddaraju) 4. NR: Kingsland. WB: 2-3/4, 1-1/2, 3-1/4. T: 1:41.73. TB: JS Pillay. Fav: Gimme.

3. The Kapila Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Windborne (Antony Raj) 1, Biometric (Sah Farid Ansari) 2, Absolute Conquerer (Vishal) 3, Perfect Heart (Hindu Singh) 4. WB: 4, 3-1/4, 1/2. T: 1:13.54. TB: Vinesh V Naik. Fav: Windborne.

4. The Goa Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Star Of Light (MS Deora) 1, King Scarface (SG Prasad) 1, Nozomi (N Arind Kumar) 3, Teresa (A Mhatre) 4. WB: 3, 4-3/4, 3/4. T: 1:27.21. TB: J Sabastian. Fav: Nozomi.

5. The Kapila Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Sheeba (Faiz) 1, Ladylion (R Vaibhav) 2, Miraculous Girl (Gautam Raj It's) 3, Habibti (Ashhad Asbar) 4. NR: Like My Child. WB: Shd, 3, 1-1/2. T: 2:14.40. TB: Feroz M Khan. Fav: Habibti.

6. The SV Subramaniam Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Opus One (N Arind Kumar) 1, Drisana (Anil Baandal) 2, Gold Ride (Sah Farid Ansari) 3, Confident Game (Vinod Shinde) 4. WB: 3/4, 1-1/4, 1-3/4. T: 1:13.41. TB: Suraj Shaw. Fav: Gold Ride.

7. The Ranibennur Plate - 1400M: Klimt (Darshan N) 1, Chief Admiral (Sah Farid Ansari) 2, D Gold Star (Prabhu Kumar) 3, Vishwas (CA Brisson) 4. WB: 2, Lnk, 6 3/4. T: 1:26.57. TB: M Bobby. Fav: Chief Admiral.

8. The Goa Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Dear Lady (Ayaz Khan) 1, Cloudy Hills (Vishal) 2, Lime Light (Ankit Pal) 3, War Emblem (H Rahul) 4. WB: 1-1/4, Snk, 3/4. T: 1:27.88. TB: MM Uthaiah. Fav: Cloudy Hills.

Mysuru dividends

I race: Rs 15 (w) 10, 12, 12 p; Shp: Rs 55 ; Thp: Rs 36 ; Fc: Rs 88; Q: Rs 82; Tri: Rs 305 & 279.
II race: Rs 23 (w) 12, 16, 24 p; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 73; Fc: Rs 157; Q: Rs 105; Tri: Rs 1358 & 714.
III race: Rs 19 (w) 10, 23, 19 p; Shp: Rs 45; Thp: Rs 59; Fc: Rs 84; Q: Rs 58; Tri: Rs 542 & 342.
IV race: Rs 181 (w) 50, 16, 10 p; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 46; Fc: Rs 2330; Q: Rs 2160; Tri: Rs 2532 & 1366.
V race: Rs 70 (w) 17, 16, 24 p; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 61; Fc: Rs 891; Q: Rs 253; Tri: Rs 2966 & 1466.
VI race: Rs 112 (w) 20, 15, 10 p; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 74; Fc: Rs 1011; Q: Rs 367; Tri: Rs 1548 & 737.
VII race: Rs 54 (w) 12, 13, 12 p; Shp: Rs 26; Thp: Rs 61; Fc: Rs 126; Q: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 697 & 355.
VIII race: Rs 88 (w) 20, 15, 17 p; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 46; Fc: Rs 264; Q: Rs 96; Tri: Rs 2522 & 1351.
Jackpot: Rs 4.38,106 C/F. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs C/F. **I treble:** Rs 105. **II treble:** Rs C/F. **III treble:** Rs 5699.
(There was no off-course betting in Bengaluru).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: India vs Bangladesh **(7 pm)**, South Africa vs Netherlands **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

3rd Test: England vs New Zealand **(day 1, 3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

1st Test: West Indies vs Sri Lanka **(day 1, 7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Maharaja T20: Coastal Kings Mangaluru vs Mysore Warriors **(2:30 pm)**, Hubli Tigers vs Gulbarga Mystics **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Wobbly India seek stability

Harmanpreet & Co in must-win group clash against Bangladesh

MANCHESTER, PTI

The onus of getting a good start for India will rely on openers Shafali Verma (left) and Smriti Mandhana when they take on Bangladesh in a must-win group tie in Manchester on Thursday. AFP

With middle-order batting woes and sloppy fielding threatening to derail their campaign, India will be desperate to address those concerns when they take on Bangladesh in a crucial Women's T20 World Cup Group A clash here on Thursday.

India entered the 12-team tournament with the form of their top order as a concern, but Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have largely allayed those fears.

Mandhana has scored 159 runs in three matches, while Shafali has contributed 92, with both batters striking at over 154 and consistently providing brisk starts.

However, the inability of the middle order to build on those platforms has emerged as a fresh concern for the team management.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (SR 109.09), Jemimah Rodrigues (94.11) and Yastika Bhatia (105.88) have each been unable to carry on the momentum provided by the openers, and their failure to accelerate invariably has left a lot to do for the likes of Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma.

Having played three matches each, both Kaur and Rodrigues have managed just 11 boundaries between them without hitting a single six. Yastika, meanwhile, has struck only three fours in two innings, numbers that are likely to worry the Indian camp heading deeper into the tournament.

On their part, Richa (176.92) and Deepti (159.37) have responded well to the challenge but arriving late in the innings with limited deliveries to face has increased the pressure on the duo.

Despite their lopsided batting, India (4 points in 3 matches, Net Run Rate of 2.511) are reaping the benefits of victories by big margins - by 64 runs against Pakistan and by 95 runs against the Netherlands - as they look to hold on to the second spot in Group A.

Australia, for that matter, have cemented themselves at the top of the group with four wins on the trot giving them a total of 8 points and a superb NRR of 4.724.

The top two teams from each groups will advance to the semi-finals and India would not want to be in a situation where they are challenged for that second spot by South Africa (4 points, NRR -0.546) any further.

South Africa rode on a brilliant 81 not out and a two-for from their senior all-rounder Marizanne Kapp to hammer India by six wickets in their last outing, which once again exposed the latter's shortcomings.

Despite leaning on their spin attack to eke out results, India were unable to make the most of the surface even when they had South Africa cornered at 25/2 after the powerplay in Proteas' chase.

Even as Shree Charani provided some respite with a rare double-wicket-maiden to bring India back in the game, it was undone by some ordinary bowling by the others, but most importantly, the failure in grabbing opportunities.

Radha Yadav, one of the team's best fielders, endured a rare off day as she spilled two regulation chances off Kapp's bat, which proved to be catastrophic.

India would know they cannot allow such mistakes to creep into the game with the business end of the competition approaching fast, and after taking on Bangladesh, they will be up against the red-hot in form Australia.

On their part, impressive victories over Pakistan (by 23 runs) and defending champions New Zealand (by 6 wickets) would give Bangladesh the belief to challenge India.

While none of their players have really imposed themselves in the tournament, Bangladesh have thrived on collective efforts which would keep India on their toes.

Aus post crushing win over Pak

LONDON, AFP: Ellyse Perry starred as Australia moved closer to the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals with a 113-run rout of lacklustre Pakistan on Tuesday.

Perry smashed 71 from 48 balls in Australia's innings of 199/7 and took two wickets to help dismiss Pakistan for just 86.

Six-time T20 World Cup winners Australia have won all four of their group matches.

They face title rivals India on Sunday in a crucial clash in the battle for semifinal places.

Brief scores: Australia: 199/7 in 20 overs (Georgia Voll 39, Ellyse Perry 71, Annabel Sutherland 27, Nicola Carey 26 n.o.; Sadia Iqbal 2-31, Rameen Shamin 2-34, nashra Sandhu 2-33) bt Pakistan: 86 all out in 13.4 overs (Maneeba Ali 32; Sophie Molineux 2-6, Annabel Sutherland 2-12, Ellyse Perry 2-9) by 113 runs. **PoM:** Ellyse Perry.

Separate changing facility for Vaibhav

Rules bar U-16 players in adult dressing rooms

NEW DELHI, PTI

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

Teen batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is set for a rather unusual experience on his maiden senior international tour, during which the 15-year-old will get a separate changing room as part of safeguarding protocols for India's upcoming T20I series in England.

The teenager, who has already created a buzz with his fearless strokeplay, is set to become India's youngest international cricketer, going past the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, who made his Test debut at 16 years and 205 days in 1989.

India begin their tour with a two-match T20I series against Ireland in Belfast starting on Friday, before taking on England in a five-match series from next Wednesday.

The England leg of the tour will also bring with it a first-of-its-kind arrangement for the youngster.

According to a report in the British daily 'The Guardian', Sooryavanshi will have separate changing facilities at all venues in England because International Cricket Council event safeguarding rules -- along with England and Wales Cricket Board regulations -- do not allow Under-16 players to use adult changing rooms.

"Sooryavanshi will be permitted in the India dressing room during the game and can attend team talks, with the restriction applying only when he is getting changed before and after each match," stated the report.

Sooryavnashi's parents are also expected to accompany him on the tour.

All-round India U-19 go 2-0 up

CHENNAI, PTI: Opener Tanishka Sharma's superb fifty was complemented by the bowling duo of Janhavi Veerkar and Maitri Maniar as India defeated Sri Lanka by 11 runs in their U-19 women's T20 game here on Wednesday.

Opting to bat, India suffered an early setback losing Deeksha Katragadda (0) in the second over but Sharma made a composed 56-ball 58 laced with eight fours to anchor the innings.

She added 57 runs with Ira Jadhav (26 off 21) for the second wicket, while Kumari Palak (21 off 18) and Kashvi Kandikuppa (12) also chipped in with useful contributions as India posted 134 for six.

Defending the total, Janhavi Veerkar (3/14) and Maitri Maniar (3/26) snared three wickets each as Sri Lanka could manage just 123 for 8 in the stipulated 20 overs.

Brief scores: India U-19: 134/6 in 20 overs (Tanishka Sharma 58, Ira Jadhav 26) bt Sri Lanka U-19: 123/8 in 20 overs (Vimoksha Balasuriya 61; Janhavi Virkar 3-14, Maitri Maniyar 2-36).
Result: India U-19 won by 11 runs.
Series: India U-19 lead 3-match series 2-0.

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar along with members of Bangalore Golf Club and other dignitaries at the sesquicentennial of the club on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Strive to build new course: CM urges BGC

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Golf Club, the oldest golf course outside the British Isles, on Wednesday celebrated its 150th anniversary, an occasion that was marked with plenty of recollections on the remarkable journey of the iconic course.

Established in 1876 by a group of British aristocrats, the course initially featured 12 holes and served for decades as a training ground for the Army.

In 2002, the landscape underwent a complete transformation, giving rise to an 18-hole, international-standard golf course. Spread across 60 acres of lush, undulating greens and rich tree cover, the course is a regular pit stop for domestic amateur events.

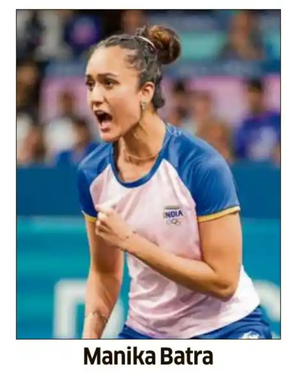
Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, a fellow BGC member, unveiled a statue and a new sewage treatment plant to mark the occasion.

Happy to see the club — situated in the heart of the city and neighbouring his official residence — celebrate its sesquicentennial, Shivakumar urged its members to aspire at creating fresh history.

"It gives me immense pride to be a part of history. But I'm going to say a few things openly. There are a lot of bureaucrats here who are members of the club.

"You have the capacity to build Bangalore and have done it. So why haven't you built a new Bangalore Golf Club?

"I don't believe in reading history or writing it. I believe in creating history. That should be your motto. A couple of private players took risks and built new courses on the outskirts of Bengaluru. I would urge you take a similar initiative and build a new course," added the chief minister while assuring his support.


Manika Batra

We followed selection criteria: TTFI to Manika

NEW DELHI, PTI: Manika Batra's name was duly considered but the selection committee strictly followed the existing criteria that resulted in her exclusion from India's Asian Games squad, TTFI said in its response to the table tennis star on Wednesday.

Manika, multiple times Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Asian Games medallist, had questioned her omission from the squad for the Games in Japan and sought a clarification from Table Tennis Federation of India on last week.

In its response, TTFI made it clear that the selection committee only went by the existing criteria that gives 50 percent weightage to national ranking, 40 percent to international rankings and the 10 percent is left for the selectors' discretion.

Manika, ranked 51 in the latest ITTF rankings, missed out on her selection as she had not taken part in national events due to which she did not have a national ranking.

A top-50 spot in world rankings would have given her an automatic spot but she was not in that bracket when the team was selected.

Treesa-Gayatri move into round 2

FULLERTON (US), PTI

Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand advanced to the second round of the US Open Super 300 badminton tournament after overcoming Spain's Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez in a three-game battle here.

Gayatri Gopichand (left) and Treesa Jolly. AP/PTI FILE PHOTO

Making her return after an ankle injury layoff, Treesa, partnering Gayatri, defeated the Spanish combination 21-12, 14-21, 21-13 in a 51-minute opening-round contest.

The Indian duo will next take on Japan's Sumire Nakade and Miyu Takahashi.

In the men's singles qualifiers, Rounak Chouhan secured his place in the main draw with two victories. He first beat France's Enogat Roy 21-19, 21-16 before rallying past Chinese Taipei's Kuo Kuan Lin 13-21, 21-14, 21-10.

Chouhan will now face fellow Indian S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian in the opening round.

Treesa and Gayatri started strongly, racing to an 8-3 lead in the opening game. Although the Spaniards narrowed the gap with a four-point burst, the Indians regained control, moving to 17-11 before comfortably taking the game.

Paula and Lucia responded well in the second game, opening up an 11-7 advantage at the interval and maintaining their edge despite a late challenge from the Indians to force a decider.

The Indian pair regained the initiative in the third game, establishing an 11-6 lead at the mid-game break. They maintained the momentum thereafter and closed out the match without much trouble.

Fifth-seeded Kidambi Srikanth is set to face compatriot Saneeth Dayanand in the men's singles draw.

India will also have a sizeable presence in women's singles, with Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, Shriyanshi Valishetty, Anmol Kharb, Devika Sihag, Tanya Hemanth, Aakarshi Kashyap and Tanvi Sharma featuring in the competition.

Marijne hints at same squad for WC and Asiad

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Indian women's hockey team is likely to field the same core group of players for both the upcoming World Cup and the Asian Games, with the two marquee events scheduled barely 20 days apart, chief coach Sjoerd Marijne indicated on Wednesday.

Indian women's hockey coach, Sjoerd Marijne, said he is treating World Cup as prep for the Asian Games. HI MEDIA

The World Cup, both men and women, will be hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, while the Asian Games, which is a qualifier for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, is scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4.

While there are speculations that India might field two different men's teams for the events, Marijne said he is taking the World Cup to prepare his side for the more important Asian Games.

"We have thought about this process. We have experience from 2018, it was the same. So what I see is one tournament is going to help the other one. The Asian Games is the most important for us as it is a direct qualifier for the Olympics," said Marijne.

"But the World Cup in 2018 also gave us a boost in confidence and that's the same way we are going to approach it now. The approach will be to focus on the World Cup and the learning from the World Cup, we take to the Asian Games and there is nothing better than playing matches under pressure at the World Cup and use that knowledge in the Asian Games.

"In World Cup we will have 20 players and in the Asian Games we will have 18 as only 18 are allowed," he added.

Dutch legend Taeke Taekema, a dragflick specialist who has worked with the Indian women's team on assignment basis, will be with the side in the World Cup and the Asian Games, said Marijne.

Taekema has been roped in by Hockey India to work with the Indian women's team till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"Yes he (Taekema) will be in both tournaments. Taekema is a specialist coach and we are very happy that we can have him in both World Cup and the Asian Games.

"He has experience of working with the Chinese team. He is bigger than just a specialist coach for me, he is doing the PC attacking, PC defending and also guiding the defenders," Marijne said.

Taekekma is a silver medallist at the Athens 2024 Olympics with the Netherlands, and has netted 170 goals in 94 appearances during his career.

Landmark legal win compensates pregnant football player

LAUSANNE, AP: In a landmark legal win for female football players, sport's highest court has awarded Maja Gothberg salary compensation from Lazio Women after the Italian club ended contract talks when it knew she was pregnant. The Court of Arbitration for Sport ordered Lazio to pay Gothberg more than 70,000 euros ($79,000) in salary compensation and "infringement of her personality rights" including 5% interest for the past two years, in a verdict published Wednesday by the global players' union FIFPRO.

The former Sweden youth international took her appeal to CAS after losing her initial claim at a FIFA tribunal.

"The significance of this ruling goes beyond Maja Göthberg and confirms clubs cannot simply walk away from an employment relationship, even if this is not fully formalized, once they learn a player is pregnant," FIFPRO's Alexandra Gomez Bruinewoud said.

Maja Gothberg. X

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Ronaldo roars back as Portugal rout Uzbekistan

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (second from left) scores his team's third goal against Uzbekistan during a Group K match in Houston. AFP

Record-setting star striker nets twice to kickstart late WC party

HOUSTON, AP

Cristiano Ronaldo scored two goals to help Portugal roll to a 5-0 win over Uzbekistan at the World Cup on Tuesday, bouncing back after a disappointing performance in the team's opening match.

The 41-year-old Ronaldo became the first player to score in six different World Cup tournaments with his goals, adding another impressive accomplishment to his storied career. He was named man of the match. The victory gave Portugal four points.

Some critics questioned if Ronaldo should remain in the starting lineup after a forgettable performance in Portugal's 1-1 draw with Congo. But coach Roberto Martínez stuck with the superstar and his decision paid off almost immediately with Ronaldo putting the team up 1-0 in the sixth minute.

He put Joao Cancelo's cross into the net with his right foot to make his latest mark on history. Ronaldo then made his signature SIUUU celebration before running toward the bench and celebrating with his teammates.

Portugal	Uzbekistan
5	0

Ronaldo scored again in the 39th minute when he got a pass from Bruno Fernandes and scored with his right foot just inside the near post to make it 3-0. Nuno Mendes had made it 2-0 off a free kick in the 17th minute.

Portugal took a 4-0 lead on an own-goal in the 60th minute. Rafael Leão, who entered the game in the 83rd, extended the advantage to 5-0 in the 87th minute. He crouched down, smiled and posed for the camera after his score.

Uzbekistan midfielder Azizjon Ganiev looked to have scored in the 30th minute, but it was overturned after a video review showed Abbosbek Fayzullaev fouled João Cancelo just before the play.

While Martínez kept Ronaldo as a starter, he did make two changes to the lineup. He benched midfielder Bernardo Silva for João Félix and started defender Rúben Dias, who sat out the opener with an injury, over Tomas Araújo.

Ronaldo had a great chance to score in the fourth minute when he took a cross from Mendes and just missed with his right foot as he slid to the grass. He shook his head and made a hand gesture indicating it was close.

But it wasn't long before he scored put Portugal on top.

He had a chance for a hat trick at the end of second-half injury time, but his shot was just off.

Uzbekistan next play on Saturday night against Congo.

Cristiano Ronaldo's first goal in each of his six World Cup appearances

2026 vs **Uzbekistan**
2022 vs **Uruguay**
2018 vs **Spain**
2014 vs **Ghana**
2010 vs **North Korea**
2006 vs **Iran**

Raging Ronaldo declares 'I am back' after a brace

HOUSTON, AP

Cristiano Ronaldo had a simple but strong message as the final whistle sounded after Portugal's big win at the World Cup on Tuesday.

"I'm back," he said directly into the television camera. "I'm back."

Ronaldo became the first player to score in six different World Cup tournaments by getting two goals in Portugal's 5-0 win over Uzbekistan, quieting critics after his forgettable performance in the team's 1-1 draw with Congo in the opener.

Even though criticism is not anything new to the 41-year-old superstar, he admitted that the intense negativity directed towards him this week was difficult.

"But it's always like that," he said in Portuguese. "It doesn't matter, because it's been 23 years on the job and when things go well, 'Cristiano is good,' when things go bad, Cristiano is a retired player, is old.' It will always be like that. But we responded well today, me and my teammates, which is what we wanted."

Ronaldo made history in the sixth minute when Joao Cancelo crossed the ball to him and he shot with his right foot to make it 1-0. He ran towards the bench and celebrated with his teammates.

He added another in the 39th minute when he got a pass from Bruno Fernandes and scored with his right foot just inside the near post to make it 3-0.

"As a defender you need to be ready and you need to be close to him in the box," said Uzbekistan coach Fabio Cannavaro, a standout defender in his playing days who led Italy to the 2006 World Cup title. "If you give him one centimetre in the box you are dead."

Ronaldo was named man of the match for his performance, the latest of many in his incredible career.

Portugal coach Roberto Martínez raved about the professionalism and poise Ronaldo showed this week amid calls from outsiders to bench him.

"He's a human being," Martínez said. "He's allowed to have emotions. He's allowed to have feelings. What is impressive with him is the answer. Whatever he feels, the answer is to get back on the training ground and practice and work and demand from himself. That professionalism is what's (led) to the longevity."

The goals on Tuesday make him the second-oldest player to score at a World Cup behind Cameroon forward Roger Milla, who was 42 when he scored at the 1994 tournament in the United States.

Ronaldo and Argentina captain Lionel Messi became the only men in history to play in six World Cup tournaments this year. Ronaldo's scoring streak started in his debut in the 2006 edition.

US eases rules on Iran for final group game

LOS ANGELES, AFP: The United States will ease travel restrictions imposed on the Iranian team during the World Cup, allowing them to arrive in Seattle two days before their next match, the US Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

Iran team officials complained they could only arrive for matches in Los Angeles one day before kick-off -- and had to leave almost as soon as the match was over.

"For the Iranian team's third match in Seattle on June 26, the team has been permitted to come into the US two days before the match," a department spokesperson said.

"The Iran team will still be required to leave the day the match ends. The overall security measures and protocol are the same. We remain committed to providing the safest tournament possible for players, staff, and fans alike."

An Iranian team spokesperson confirmed to AFP that the squad will leave Tijuana - the Mexican city where they have been based -- on Wednesday, ahead of the match against Egypt on Friday.

Team Melli drew 2-2 with New Zealand in their first game on June 15, and held a 10-man Belgium to a 0-0 draw on Sunday.

Colombia subdue stubborn DR Congo to enter round of 32

GUADALAJARA (MEXICO), AFP

Colombia finally broke down a stubborn DR Congo side on Tuesday to secure a 1-0 win that guaranteed their place in the World Cup knockout rounds.

Victory in Guadalajara, courtesy of a 76th-minute goal from Daniel Munoz, took them top of Group K with six points -- two clear of Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal with one game to go in the first round.

Portugal, held 1-1 by DR Congo in their opening match, earlier hammered Uzbekistan 5-0 in Houston, with Ronaldo scoring twice.

Colombian fans turned the Mexican stadium into a sea of yellow, vastly outnumbering supporters of the African nation.

Colombia	DR Congo
1	0

The South Americans, who beat Uzbekistan 3-1 in their tournament opener, dominated the early stages, peppering Lionel Mpasi's goal.

Munoz squandered an early chance and shortly afterwards had a goal ruled out for offside while James Rodriguez unleashed a stinging shot that was brilliantly saved as Colombia kept probing.

Mpasi made further sharp stops from Johan Mojica and Luis Diaz as the Colombians, playing with pace and invention, continued to dominate.

But their intensity dipped after the first drinks break, allowing DR Congo to edge back into the contest and pose their own occasional threat. Mpasi made another stunning save with his leg from Diaz in the 50th minute to keep the game goalless.

Colombiawill face Portugal in Miami on Saturday.

Daniel Munoz celebrates scoring Colombia's winner against DR Congo at the Estadio Guadalajara in Mexico on Tuesday. REUTERS

Fighting Ivory Coast up against zesty Curacao

PHILADELPHIA, REUTERS

Tiny Curacao had previously given themselves little chance against the Ivory Coast at the World Cup, but a draw in their last group game with Ecuador might well have changed their perspective.

The smallest nation to compete at the finals were handed a 7-1 pasting by Germany on their tournament debut but then produced a dogged defensive display to take a point off Ecuador in their second Group E fixture.

Before the tournament, veteran coach Dick Advocaat had sought to dampen expectations on the Caribbean island, and his casting of his squad as outsiders with only slim hopes of creating an upset seemed on the mark after the thrashing from the Germans.

But the goalless draw with Ecuador, who finished second in South American qualifying, offers hope of another potential upset against the Ivorians, who will finish second in the group if they win.

It was a stout defensive performance from Curacao, led by 37-year-old goalkeeper Eloy Room, who plays in the second tier of professional football in the United States, and who made a series of key saves to keep their goal intact.

"I grew into the match after a few good saves. Fortunately, I was able to stop every shot," said the goalkeeper.

"I think I've earned a statue in Curacao."

Room will likely be in the firing line again against an attacking Ivorian team, looking to secure their progress to the last 32.

They also beat Ecuador in their opening fixture.

Ivory Coast's Amad Diallo. AFP

Japan, Sweden eye a spot in knockouts

LONDON, REUTERS

Graham Potter

Hajime Moriyasu

Japan will be keeping a close eye on Sweden strikers Alexander Isak and Viktor Gyokeres when the two sides meet in their Group F finale at the World Cup on Thursday, where a guaranteed knockout-stage berth is on the line.

The two sides have had contrasting experiences so far: Japan have looked calm and collected against the Netherlands and Tunisia, while Sweden have engaged in two games against the same opposition that finished 5-1, winning one in style and completely collapsing in the other.

Regardless of what happens in the other game in the group, a win for either side will see them finish no worse than second. The top two from Group F will then be pitted against their Group C counterparts in the last 32, where Brazil, Morocco and Scotland are battling it out.

Potter's porous side has scored 17 goals but conceded 19 since he took over from Jon Dahl Tomasson last October towards the tail-end of a woeful qualifying campaign that was only salvaged by playoff wins over Ukraine and Poland. Yet with Isak and Gyokeres up front, they are capable of scoring more than they concede.

"They are without a doubt two of the strongest strikers in this tournament," Japan defender Shogo Taniguchi told reporters.

TEAMS: 48 VENUES: 16 TOURNAMENT SPAN: 39 DAYS

Tenacious Ghana leave England frustrated in goalless draw

Both teams all but assured to progress to the knockouts

Harry Kane (centre) can't hide his frustration after a missed chance during their Group L match against Ghana at the Boston Stadium in Foxborough on Tuesday. AFP

FOXBOROUGH (USA), AFP

England suffered a World Cup setback on Tuesday as Thomas Tuchel's side were held to a frustrating 0-0 draw by Ghana, leaving them with still some work to do as they bid to progress to the knockout stage as Group L winners.

Nico O'Reilly came closest to scoring for England with a late header that hit the bar and captain Harry Kane blasted the rebound over the woodwork, but after the promise of their opening 4-2 win over Croatia, this was a performance that will raise doubts about their chances of winning the tournament.

England dominated possession and had 19 shots to their opponents' two, yet rarely looked like scoring past Ghana's stand-in goalkeeper Benjamin Asare in a match watched by 63,983 fans at the Gillette Stadium near Boston.

Both teams have four points with one group game still to play, with progression to the next round all but assured but their final positions still in the balance.

In damp, cool conditions, England delivered a stodgy performance that echoed some of their faltering displays during Euro 2024.

However, there are no dramatic consequences, as they take a step closer to the last 32. All they need do now is safely negotiate their final group fixture against Panama at the MetLife Stadium on Saturday, and they can turn their attentions to the knockout rounds.

England have still never lost to African opposition at the World Cup, and that record was rarely at risk of ending here.

Ghana nevertheless battled brilliantly, as the nation ranked 73rd in the world -- 69 places behind England -- put up a determined display.

The late decision by the Black Stars to appoint Carlos Queiroz as coach is looking increasingly justified, with this result following their opening 1-0 win over Panama. The 2010 quarter-finalists face Croatia next in Philadelphia.

England	Ghana
0	0

Thomas Partey returned for Ghana after missing the Panama match in Toronto because Canadian authorities denied him a visa -- the ex-Arsenal midfielder is facing trial on rape charges in the UK.

Asare of local side Hearts of Oak started in goal for the Ghanaians after coming on for the injured Lawrence Ati Zigi against Panama.

England's inability to regularly test him will be a source of concern, as Kane was kept quiet and failed to add to his 10 World Cup goals -- he remains level with Gary Lineker as their all-time top scorer at the tournament.

Noni Madueke and Anthony Gordon were unable to make the difference on the wings and their substitutes could not this time have a decisive impact.

Jude Bellingham won his 50th cap as Marc Guehi and Djed Spence replaced John Stones and O'Reilly in the defence. A Declan Rice free-kick that sailed just over was about as close as England came in the opening half. In fact it took almost an hour for Asare to make a notable save, but it was a comfortable one to deny Gordon.

Ghana may feel Jordan Pickford should have been punished for charging out of his box and crashing into Prince Adu without touching the ball -- but instead the goalkeeper was given a free-kick.

There was also panic for England when substitute Adu ran through into the area but could not get a shot away.

Then the pressure was turned up a notch in the closing minutes, as Asare denied Bukayo Saka with a good stop low to his left before O'Reilly headed off the woodwork from close range and Kane blazed over.

FIFA WORLD CUP

Leweling to get Ronaldo's haircut if Germany win

Germany's Jamie Leweling promised on Tuesday he would cut his hair into the triangle fringe made popular in 2002 by Brazil's Ronaldo, after the midfielder changed his profile picture on social media with an AI one in which he sports the former World Cup winner's iconic hairstyle, reports Reuters from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Ronaldo, who played with that haircut en route to a 2002 title win with Brazil, sent Leweling a signed Brazil shirt on Tuesday after being informed of the midfielder's doctored profile picture.

Morocco squad firmly behind Hakimi

Morocco goalkeeper Munir El Kajoui said captain Achraf Hakimi has the support of his teammates despite facing a trial in France on rape charges, reports AFP from Atlanta.

The Paris Saint-Germain star is facing allegations that he raped a 24-year-old woman in the French capital in 2023, which he denies.

"Everybody is supporting Achraf," El Kajoui told the media. "He's our standard in Morocco, so every time we will be behind him in everything."

Doku to rejoin team after son's birth

Belgium forward Jeremy Doku was expected to rejoin the team at its World Cup training facility on Tuesday following the birth of his first child, a boy named Praise, reports AP from Renton, US.

Doku missed Belgium's 0-0 World Cup draw against Iran on Sunday because of a respiratory illness, but was cleared to fly to London so he could be with his wife. Ahead of Tuesday's training session, centre back Arthur Theate said Doku would join the team, but he was not present for the portion of practice that was open to the media.

'Living statue' Congo fan makes it to World Cup

Congo's famous living statue finally made his World Cup debut. Michel Nkuka Mboladinga, who gained fame during the Africa Cup of Nations for posing as a statue of Congo's assassinated independence leader Patrice Lumumba for the entirety of games, attended Congo's match against Colombia after missing its opener against Portugal because of Ebola quarantine requirements, reports AP from Guadalajara.

Lumumba Vea, as the sharply dressed supporter is known for his resemblance to the slain leader, was at his seat about an hour before the game at Estadio Akron. He wore a bright red jacket and tie, yellow shirt and blue pants.

Almiron handed one-game suspension

Paraguay midfielder Miguel Almiron has been given a one-match suspension after he was the first player to be sent off at the World Cup for covering his mouth, reports AP from Atlanta.

FIFA confirmed on Tuesday that Almiron will miss Paraguay's final group game against Australia on Thursday. World soccer's governing body said the decision was not subject to appeal. Almiron made history when he was issued a red card for covering his mouth during a confrontation with Mert Mulder late in the first half of Paraguay's 1-0 win last Friday.

Trump to present WC trophy: Infantino

US President Donald Trump will attend the World Cup final in New Jersey on July 19 and present the trophy to the winners, FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced on Tuesday, reports AFP from Los Angeles.

"We will be together with the president enjoying the final and handing the trophy to the winner, of course, together," Infantino told Fox and Friends.

Infantino has cultivated a close relationship with Trump, awarding him with a newly created FIFA peace prize at the World Cup draw.

Gritty Croatia send Panama packing

Croatia's Ante Budimir (right) celebrates after scoring the winner against Panama at the Toronto Stadium on Tuesday. REUTERS

TORONTO, AFP

Panama were eliminated from World Cup contention after Croatia kept their hopes of progressing to the last 32 alive with a hard-fought 1-0 win on Tuesday.

Croatia, who made it to the last four of the 2018 and 2022 tournaments, were looking to bounce back after a 4-2 defeat to England in their opening Group L game.

In the end, Ante Budimir's 54th-minute goal proved enough to see off the spirited Central Americans.

"You cannot win a match if you don't score," said Panama's Danish-born coach Thomas Christiansen.

But he told reporters he was "super proud" of his players for how they battled against the higher-ranked Croatian side.

Despite being eliminated from the tournament, Christiansen said Panama had taken strides forward.

"These players, after these two World Cup matches, won't be where they are today."

Croatia's most celebrated player, Luka Modric, was making his 200th international appearance, but his early headed effort on goal sailed over the bar.

Croatia	Panama
1	0

Under Christiansen, Panama have implemented a tight defensive structure that helped them secure their second-ever World Cup appearance.

But it was the Panamanian offence that almost made the difference in the first half.

In the 23rd minute Jose Luis Rodriguez guided a header towards goal but the outstretched fingertips of Croatian 'keeper Dominik Livakovic redirected the ball off the bar.

The second half marked a clear momentum shift and the capacity crowd of 43,000 in Toronto with a strong Croatian majority erupted when Budimir tapped in a cross from Josip Stanisic.

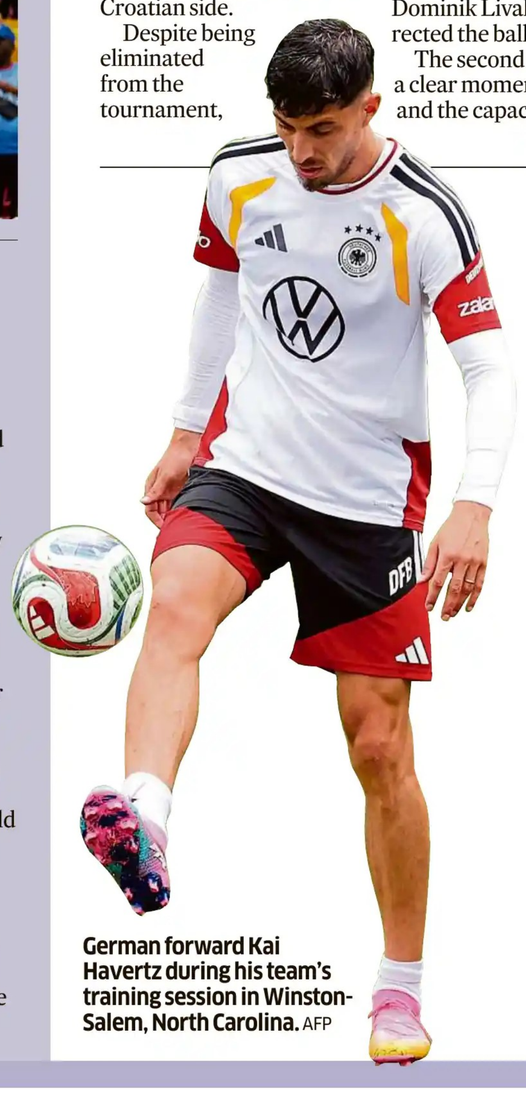
Croatia should have been two up minutes later, when a perfectly weighted pass from Modric sent Marco Pasalic alone speeding towards goal.

Pasalic's first effort was stopped by keeper Orlando Mosquera and although the rebound came back to him he blasted an off-balance second attempt well over the bar.

Panama kept pressing for the equaliser but they ultimately failed to find the net, extending their World Cup goalless streak.

They face England in what will be their final match of the tournament on Friday.

Croatia have three points and will face Ghana, who moved onto four points after holding England to a goalless draw earlier, for a place in the final 32.



German forward Kai Havertz during his team's training session in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. AFP

Germany look to keep up winning momentum

BOSTON, REUTERS

Already-qualified Germany will look to make it three wins out of their three Group E matches on Thursday when they take on Ecuador, aiming to stretch their winning run to 12 consecutive games and keep their World Cup momentum going.

Coach Julian Nagelsmann will need to change his backline after starting centre back Nico Schlotterbeck was ruled out for the rest of the tournament with an ankle ligament injury he picked up in their 2-1 last-gasp win over Ivory Coast last week.

Antonio Ruediger, who replaced Schlotterbeck in that game, is likely to earn his first start of the tournament, playing alongside Jonathan Tah in the heart of the German defence.

Nagelsmann's backline has been a little shaky at times and the absence of Schlotterbeck will test it further against Ecuador, who have their backs to the wall after managing only a goalless draw against Curacao and having lost their opener to Ivory Coast.

The South Americans, who had 28 attempts at goal against Curacao but could not find the target, are in third place on one point, ahead of Curacao on goal difference.

They had arrived at the tournament on a 19-match unbeaten run, having finished South American qualifying runners-up to reigning world champions Argentina, and now need to beat the Germans to have any chances of advancing. Ivory Coast are second in the group on three points.

The Germans, on six, have already secured top spot in the group whatever the result, and will play their Round of 32 match in Boston. They are still waiting to see which team they will face. The Germans, however, are unlikely to take their foot off the gas or rest key players ahead of the knockout stages with the team eager to keep up their winning run.

"We have to stay in the flow because every win is good for us," attacking midfielder Nadiem Amiri said.

"It is an extremely important match for us with a lot of fans coming from Germany so we want to win it 100% and we will go in with maximum intensity."

It is that maximum intensity that Nagelsmann wants to maintain after his team reached the knockout stage for the first time in 12 years, following two first-round exits in the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

Netherlands gun for top spot as they face Tunisia

HOUSTON, REUTERS

The Netherlands complete their Group F campaign at the World Cup with a clash against a Tunisia side in disarray in Kansas City on Thursday, looking to cement top spot in the pool and manage several strikers carrying knocks.

Tunisia have already been eliminated after two heavy losses that have seen them concede nine goals and draft in coach Herve Renard mid-tournament, while the Netherlands romped to a 5-1 success over Sweden in their last fixture.

The Dutch top the Group F table on goals scored from Japan, with both teams garnering four points and a +4 goal-difference. Sweden have three points and Tunisia's horror campaign sees them yet to get off the mark.

Netherlands are likely to welcome back midfielder Quinten Timber, who missed the win over Sweden with a concussion.

The form of striker Brian Brobbey has covered for the fact that Memphis Depay is still working his way back to fitness.

Brian Brobbey will be key to Netherlands' hopes as they take on Tunisia. AFP

On Thursday

Group A

South Africa vs **South Korea** (6.30 am)

Czechia vs **Mexico** (6.30 am)

On Friday

Group E

Curacao vs **Ivory Coast** (1.30 am)

Ecuador vs **Germany** (1.30 am)

Group F

Tunisia vs **Netherlands** (4.30 am)

Japan vs **Sweden** (4.30 am)

Live on Zee5, Unite8. All timings in IST

MNK Rao, Blues to battle for title

BENGALURU, DHNS: Vasisht scored 31 points while Ujwal added 20 more as MNK Rao BC boys beat Beagles BC 81-72 in an upper pool super league encounter of the State Youth under-16 Championship for boys and girls at the Kanteerava courts here.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

In another game, Benorr (17 points) and Dhruv (16) helped Southern Blues edge IBBC 58-56 in thriller of a contest.

Results: Boys: Upper Pool Super League: AVBC: 63 (Achyuthkumar 16, Aryan 25) bt Beagles BC: 61 (Asher 15, Saurav 12, Raghav 23). HT: 29-38; Southern Blues: 58 (Benorr 17, Dhruv 16) bt IBBC: 56 (Tarun 16, Smirithik 15). HT: 27-31; Vimanapura SC: 74 (Siddesh 30, Aditya 29) bt IBBC: 70 (Tarun 23, Shrithik 13, Kavin 13). HT: 30-29. MNK Rao: 81 (Vasisht 31, Ujwal 20, Pranav 11) bt Beagles BC: 72 (Pradyun 15, Asher 15, Raghav 14, Shourya 14). HT: 26-32.

Girls: Mysuru A: 70 (Aanchal 22, Shreshta 17, Revathi 13) bt Appaiah BC: 38 (Tia Rohom 16). HT: 47-17; Bangalore Vanguards: 50 (Aarushi 15, Sanjana 10, Suhanvi 10) bt MCHS: 39 (Livdeep 12). HT: 26-18; Mysuru A: 65 (Aanchal 24, Shreshta 16) bt Vivek's SC: 48 (Manasvi 16, Aarohi 12). HT: 35-17; Beagles BC: 65 (Adel 23, Saanvi 15) bt Bangalore Vanguards: 48 (Suhaavi 15, Aarushi 13). HT: 23-26.

NZ's Blair no more

LONDON, AFP: New Zealand's Bob Blair, whose courage in the face of immense grief made him a national hero, has died aged 94, New Zealand Cricket announced Wednesday.

A fast bowler, who took 43 wickets in 19 Tests, Blair is best remembered for the 10 minutes he spent batting during the Johannesburg Test of 1953.

NZ will wear black armbands on the first day of the third England Test.

ATHELTICS NATIONAL INTER-STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Anushka springs big surprise

Dev reclaims sole lead as nation's best pole vaulter; Yarraji wins 100m hurdles

ADITYA K HALDER
BHUBANESWAR, DHNS

Teenager Anushka Yadav turned unlikely hero on the opening day of the National Inter-State Athletics Championships as the 18-year-old hammer thrower smashed the national record with a big throw of 67.02 metre at the Kalinga Stadium here.

The UP girl, who trains at her hometown Baghpat, breached the 9-year-old national record (of 65.25 by Sarita Singh in 2017) off her last attempt, making her the youngest national record holder in Indian track and field ahead of 19-year-old high jumper Pooja, who leapt to a personal best of 1.93m last month.

Anushka, who started the season late following an injury while working on a tractor in her father's farm, also cleared the Asian Games qualification mark (61.72) as early as her first attempt at 62.07.

She, in fact, broke the national record twice on the day as her second attempt landed at 65.64.

"I suffered a ligament fracture on my knee while working in March, which forced me to start the season late and impacted my CWG qualification chances," Anushka told media here. "However, today I was determined to give my best and if possible go past 65 metre as I have been missing out on it a lot."

The unwanted hot and humid conditions did little to impact the performance of athletes on the day as pole vaulter Dev Meena reclaimed sole ownership of the national record by clearing a height of 5.46m.

The effort was just 0.01m better than the previous joint best held by the MP athlete and his training partner Kuldeep Kumar, who finished third at 5.20m, while the 21-year-old Dev qualified for the Asian Games.

With hordes of elite athletes participating in the five-day event, Asiad qualification marks were breached in several events and as early as heats.

Notably, national record holder Jyothi Yarraji marked her return in the women's 100m hurdles with a bang as she breached the 13.34 seconds mark in the heats with a run of 13.14.

The 26-year-old hurdler, who holds the NR at 12.78, further made a statement as she clocked sub-13 in the final (12.99) to win the event by a margin.

Runner-up Nandhini K of Tamil Nadu also breached the Asiad mark with a timing of 13.22.

The Asian Games selection, however, remains subject to AFI's selection committee's consideration with limited spots up for grabs.

The men's 800m event's qualifying mark of 1:48.80 saw as many as 15 athletes qualify in the heats with runners strategising fast races.

The women's triple jump saw a notable result too as Tamil Nadu's Asha Ilango leapt to the third-longest distance by an Indian at 13.89 metre to breach the Asiad mark comfortably.

However, there was concern aplenty for double Asian Games silver medallist Harmilan Bains, who injured herself in the closing stages of the women's 800m heats and leapt out. The 27-year-old Punjab runner, who is on a comeback trail following a long injury lay-off, was visibly concerned about her injury and refused to speak about it.

Results: Men: 5000m: Gulveer Singh 13:52.92, 1; Abhishek Pal 13:54.18, 2; Harmanjot Singh 13:54.60, 3.
Pole Vault: Dev Meena 5.46m (NR: Old: 5.45m, Kuldeep Kumar, Ranchi 2026), 1; Reegan G 5.30m, 2; Kuldeep Kumar 5.20m, 3.
Women: 100m Hurdles: Jyothi Yarraji 12.99, 1; Nandhini K 13.22, 2; Pragyan Prasant Sahu 13.48, 3.
Triple Jump: I. Asha Ilango 13.89m (MR: Old: 13.72m, Mayookha Johny, 2014), 1; Niharika Vashisht 13.22m, 2; Mallala Anusha 13.13m, 3.
Hammer Throw: Anushka Yadav 67.02m (NR: Old: 65.25, Sarita Singh, Patiala, 2017), 1; Tanya Chaudhary 61.70m, 2; Harshita Sehrawat 60.92m, 3.
5000m: Seema 16:11.04, 1; Bharti 16:17.10, 2; Ravina Gayakwad 16:32.92, 3.

Hammer thrower Anushka Yadav (left) managed two national record throws on the opening day of the National Inter-state Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. Pole vaulter Dev Meena cleared 5.46 metres on the day to also qualify for the Asian Games. DH PHOTO/ ADITYA K HALDER/ ODISHA SPORTS

Blasters edge Kings in a run-fest

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Blasters defeated Coastal Kings Mangaluru by 20 runs at the DACSS Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 to stay at the top of table with six points from four matches in Mysuru on Wednesday.

For Coastal Kings, it was their first defeat in three matches and they slipped to third with three points. It was another run fest as, batting first, the Blasters raced to 226 for six with useful contributions from almost all the top and middle-order batters.

The Kings, in reply, made a poor start losing opener Nikin Jose in the first over, and, more crucially, Karun Nair also fell soon reducing them to 23/2. When it just looked all over, Suraj Ahuja scored a whirlwind 96 not out in 38 balls with five fours and eight sixes. Earlier, it was KL Shrijith who motored the innings for the Blasters with 59 runs in 33 balls.

Brief scores: Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters: 226/6 in 20 overs (Rohan Patil 30, Shrijith KL 59, Samit Dravid 39, Shubhang Hegde 34, Praveen Dubey 45 n.o.; CA Karthik 3-49) bt Coastal Kings Mangaluru: 206/5 in 20 overs (Suraj Ahuja 96 n.o., CA Karthik 49 n.o.; Shubhang Hegde 2-31).

KL Shrijith

Shivamogga win

A blazing 118-run opening stand between Luvnith Sisodia and MG Naveen laid the foundation for Shivamogga Yodhas' comprehensive 42-run victory over Hubli Tigers.

Brief scores: Shivamogga Yodhas: 220/5 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 57, Naveen MG 75, Smaran R 37, LR Kumar 2-34, Vaibhav Sharma A 2-48) bt Hubli Tigers: 178 all out in 19.3 overs (Mohammed Taha 44, Hardik Raj 43, Mayank Agarwal 28; Abhilash Shetty 4-25, Mohsin Khan 2-31).

BCA, Alchemy IFA win titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: A goal each by Mohammed Aathif, Mathu Sethanan and Loga Subramani were enough for Bangalore Champs Academy to blank Blues Star FC 3-0 and emerge champions in the South Zone final of the KSCA C Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

In the North Zone final, Alchemy Intlo FA defeated Ronaldo FC Bangalore through a penalty shootout after the match was tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

Both the winning teams -- Bangalore Champs Academy and Alchemy Intlo FA -- are promoted to B Division for the next season.

Results: KSFA C Division: Finals: South Zone: Bangalore Champs Academy: 3 (Mohammed Aathif 11th, Mathu Sethanan 18th, Loga Subramani 57th) bt Blues Star FC: 0.
North Zone: Alchemy Intlo FA: 1 (4) (Thangjam Digbijoy Singh 20th) bt Ronaldo FC Bangalore: 1 (1) (Sanju Kuamr S 30th pen) via tie-breaker.
BDFA C Division: Pre-quarterfinal: Freedom FC: 2 (4) (P Lokesh 13th, 27th) bt East West: 2 (2) (Michael R 18th, 34th) via tie-breaker; Rangers FC: 1 (Naveen Eshwarth 12th) bt Young Dynamos FC: 0.
KSFA U20 Youth Premier League Final: Kickstart FC: 2 (Sachin R 23rd, Allen Dammi 58th) bt HAL SC: 0.

HTMPL
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Date: 25-06-2026 Thursday Time: 11.00 am
Venue : Government High School Ground, Munirabad, Tq & Dist. Koppal
Sri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister for jal shakti Government of India
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Karnataka
Sri N. Chandrababu Naidu
Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Andhra Pradesh
Sri A. Revanth Reddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister Government of Telangana
Sri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Minister of state For Jal Shakti and Railways, Government of India
Sri Raj Bhushan Choudhary
Hon'ble Minister of state For Jal Shakti Government of India
Sri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister For Major and Medium Irrigation Government of Karnataka
Sri Nimmala Rama Naidu
Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Government of Andhra Pradesh
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